

Nancy Boutelier's back
And the Bay Area Reporter has her.
The original Dykeotomy returns this week.
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World AIDS Day
events throughout the
Bay Area mark the crisis.
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Maternity warred
Joan Crawford could
really be a perfect mother.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 28 • No. 48 • 26 November 1998

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Harvey Milk in retrospect

Who he was
by Wayne Friday

A reporter asked me last week what I thought former Supervisor Harvey Milk would be like if he hadn't been murdered with Mayor George Moscone during the double assassination in San Francisco's City Hall of November 27, 1978. While it is really impossible to know for sure, I do know it's likely that he would be pleased – but not satisfied – with the progress the gay rights movement has made in the 20 years since his death.

Harvey would be 68 years old if he were alive, and while it is difficult for me to picture him as a man nearing 70, it is not hard to imagine him still being a firebrand activist, albeit a senior firebrand activist. In fact, if he had lived, I believe Harvey Milk would have served a couple of terms as this city's first openly gay mayor – and a hell of a good mayor he would have been.

A rising political star of the growing national gay rights movement when he was killed, Milk knew full well what responsibility that role carried with it. He was a darling of the media, which he knew only too well how to handle, and although some who knew him have described him as both an idealist and an opportunist – which he indeed was – he took himself seriously (sometimes more than others did) and knew full well what he wanted for the gay rights movement.

Our last night

I remember the last time I saw Harvey alive. He was at my house for my birthday
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Icon and iconoclast

San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk will be remembered at a candlelight march this Friday, November 27. It is the 20th anniversary of the double assassination of Milk and Mayor George Moscone at the hands of Dan White, also a former San Francisco supervisor. The march begins at 6:30 p.m. at the site of Milk's former camera store on Castro, near 19th Street. It will conclude on the Polk Street side of City Hall, where the murders were committed.

Who he has become
by Jonathan Katz,
Executive director,
the Harvey Milk Institute

Leaders are assassinated. That's the sad fact of leadership in America. I'm (barely) of the generation of King and Kennedy, so I know this well. In my youth, the killing of true leaders – the ones possessed of an ethical vision beyond the immediately expedient – was something we almost expected. It was after all, the Vietnam era and domestic political violence was hardly news. By the time Harvey Milk was killed, political assassination in America was old hat. Milk, as his tape recorded political will makes clear, expected it. People around Milk expected it. And when I first got word of the killings, like so many others, I was hardly surprised.

So it is with some trepidation that I want to make the following claim: it's not that our leaders were killed; rather it was because they were murdered that political figures were made into our leaders. Murder made Harvey Milk, transformed him from local legend to international icon. Despite his considerable political skills and charismatic presence, Milk would have remained ours alone had he not been murdered. Alive, he fought against dog poop on San Francisco sidewalks and built bridges to local unions. Dead, he catalyzed a far-reaching political movement, personified a newly out gay politics and inspired generations of queer activists.

He was, after all, a San Franciscan – de-
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Castro holiday tree lighting ceremony set for Sunday
by Cynthia Laird

Members of Merchants of Upper Market and Castro (MUMC) invite everyone to join them, along with Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco and local dignitaries, as they officially light this year's holiday tree this Sunday, November 29 in front of the Bank of America building at 18th and Castro streets.

The theme for this year's tree is "When You Wish Upon A Star," and MUMC President Patrick Batt said that thanks to the support of local merchants and community organizations, this year's tree will be adorned with more than 4,000 lights and 100 grapevine gold stars with rainbow-colored, metallic ribbon forming the tails of shooting stars.
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Georgia sodomy law overturned

United Press International

The Georgia Supreme Court did what the U.S. Supreme Court would not do a dozen years ago: it ruled Monday, November 23 that the state's sodomy law is an indefensible intrusion into citizens' right to privacy guaranteed under the state's constitution.

In a 6 to 1 decision, the court declared the law as unconstitutional because it "criminalizes the performance of private, non-commercial acts of sexual intimacy."

"We cannot think of any other activity that reasonable persons would rank as more private and more deserving of protection from governmental interference than consensual, private, adult sexual activity," the court's opinion said.

Today's ruling – the second challenge to the sodomy law in three years – came in the case of a Georgia man who was sentenced to five years in prison for consensual oral sex with his 17-year-old niece.

Anthony San Juan Powell was convicted of sodomy in August 1997 after he admitted having oral sex with the girl in his home.

His attorney, Steve Sadow, told the Supreme Court in May that of the 30 states that had made sodomy a crime, eight of them, most recently Minnesota, had overturned

their sodomy laws on privacy grounds.

Gwinnett County District Attorney Danny Porter defended the law as necessary because Powell's sexual encounter was not consensual.

But the Supreme Court said that other statutes, such as those prohibiting sexual assault, child molestation, and public sex, protected the public from sexual assaults.

The Georgia Supreme Court had upheld the sodomy law in a 1996 decision involving a man who solicited oral sex from an undercover sheriff's deputy at a rest area off an interstate highway.

White ridicule

The law went before the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of Atlanta resident Michael Hardwick. A police officer who entered Hardwick's bedroom to serve a warrant witnessed Hardwick having sex with another man, and arrested him. Although the charges were eventually dropped, the case slowly went forward to the nation's high court.

The arrest in *Bowers v. Hardwick* was in 1982. The ruling was handed down on June 30, 1986, one day after gay and lesbian pride celebrations. Justice Byron White wrote the 5 to 4 majority opinion rejecting the grounds of privacy, and Judge Harry Blackmun authored the strong dissent. "Depriving indi-

viduals of the right to choose for themselves how to conduct their intimate relationships," he wrote, "poses a far greater threat to the values most deeply rooted in our Nation's history than tolerance of nonconformity
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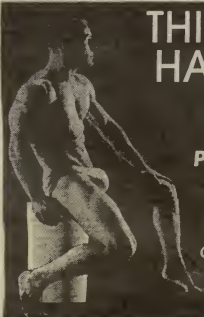
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New Postal Retail Store upsets Castro

by Mark Norby

The Castro neighborhood's new Postal Retail Store at 18th Street and Diamond, which opened November 9, is receiving mixed reviews and has many area residents calling for a return to the former, more functional post office.

The former post office that everyone was accustomed to, open since the area was popularly known simply as Eureka Valley, was a typical postal center. Customers entered, waited in line to buy stamps or send or pick up packages, or checked rented mail boxes.

In contrast, the new Postal Retail Store is a commercial venture where patrons may buy a myriad of "designer stamps," coffee mugs, T-shirts, key chains, and whatnot. But when it comes to retrieving parcels, they're out of luck: residents of the Castro must now venture an additional 18 blocks to the postal station at 15th and Bryant streets.

The opening of the new store comes in the midst of the arrival of the holiday season, reinforcing for many residents the difficulty presented by the new, less functional Postal Retail Store.

Residents will not enjoy the convenience of sending and picking up holiday packages from the post office they were accustomed to.

In addition, prescriptions and other essential medical aids will no longer be delivered to the new store and has left people with AIDS (PWA) without a vital health convenience.



The Castro's new, less functional Postal Retail Store

Undelivered mail will also need to be retrieved from the Bryant Street station.

'What were they thinking?'

Jim Dewsnap, a Castro resident who is urging the community to protest the inconvenience by calling or writing the postmaster, wants residents to "turn this thing around. What were they thinking by putting a postal store in a residential neighborhood. I ask that [the postmaster] reconsider this rather thoughtless decision so that postal customers in the ZIP codes affected by it get back the service they once had."

"If space is a problem," Dewsnap continues, "the conference room at the new facility might

make a good parcel pick-up and storage area."

Postal Retail Stores apparently are the wave of the future and their numbers are increasingly replacing standard, old-fashioned neighborhood post offices. The first Postal Retail Store was opened in 1996 in the Mall of America in Minnesota, the largest retail facility in the U.S. ▼

Those interested in this issue may write and express their thoughts to the San Francisco Postmaster, San Francisco CA 94188-9998. For outside San Francisco write to your local city postmaster to find out about future plans for existing post offices.

Castro bars changing ... but not much

by Ed Walsh

Contrary to rumors sweeping the Castro, Badlands will not be going to Never-Never Land anytime soon.

The Bay Area Reporter has learned that the sale of the landmark bar is pending, but the prospective new owner, Les Natali, plans to keep the Badlands name and to keep the popular bar pretty much the same, except for some minor upgrades.

Frank McGrady, the current

owner of Badlands, declined comment but assessor's records show he purchased the property in 1977 for \$250,000. It is currently assessed at \$462,500.

Natali, who currently owns the Patio Cafe, confirms that he is in escrow to buy Badlands, but he tells the B.A.R. that the sale is contingent on his loan going through and seismic and disabled access upgrades that need to be made to the building.

Meanwhile, another landmark Castro bar, the Castro Station, is scheduled to re-open by mid-De-

cember as "The Bar on Castro."

Its new owners, Greg Bronstein and Morgan Gorrone, tell the B.A.R. they are remodeling it into a more upscale "bar-lounge."

They expect it will be a very popular and relaxed alternative in the Castro.

Bronstein recently purchased another landmark Castro business, Pozole Cafe, on Market Street.

Castro Station had been in business on Castro Street for more than 20 years.

Its last night was Halloween. ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Mora ordered to stand trial for murder in Wilmes death

by Cynthia Laird

San Francisco Municipal Court Judge Ellen Chaitin on Tuesday, November 24 ordered Edgard Mora to stand trial for murder in the death of gay city resident Brian Wilmes. Chaitin also reduced a felony charge of assault against a witness to a misdemeanor, and set bail at \$650,000 over the objections of Assistant District Attorney Murlene Randle. Mora's defense attorney, Robert Dunlap argued for \$20,000 bail.

The murder charge carries a hate crime enhancement.

Mora, 26, was ordered back to court on December 10 and was returned to jail following his brief court appearance. He has pleaded not guilty to the charges.

In issuing her ruling, Chaitin cited last week's preliminary hear-

ing testimony by Wilmes's friend Timothy Carroll, who told the court Mora was shaking Wilmes after throwing a single punch that knocked him to the ground outside of the Loading Dock, a gay bar on Mission Street, on March 12. Wilmes, 45, died of head injuries two days later. Carroll also testified last week that Mora uttered anti-gay epithets four times during the attack, which occurred as Wilmes and Carroll attempted to go into the bar.

Chaitin said Carroll's testimony about the shaking showed there was "sufficient implied malice" to make Mora stand trial on the murder charge.

Other witnesses, including Mora's girlfriend Silvia Vanegas, testified during last week's hearing they did not see Mora shake Wilmes. However, Vanegas also testified she didn't see Mora punch Wilmes as she was in their



Edgard Mora in court.

car across the street rolling up a window. By the time she looked over, she testified, Mora was standing by Wilmes. The two left the scene and police arrested Mora after tracking down the car. A homeless man, Michael Gillespie, also witnessed the incident and testified he was hit by Mora before the alleged attack on Wilmes. Gillespie got the license plate number of the car and turned the information over to police.

Mora's family members once again filled one side of the courtroom, while only Loading Dock owner Mike Dreier and two advocates from Community United Against Violence were there on behalf of Wilmes. ▼

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Double murder update

by Lois Pearlman

Friends of a controversial Russian River area gay bar owner and his friend have offered a "substantial" reward for information leading to the arrest of whoever is responsible for their murder last month.

"We are concerned for our community that one amongst us has perpetrated this horrible act. We would like to see this person brought to justice," said Bill Brown, a friend of 57-year-old homicide victim Hans Grahlmann.

The group offering the reward,

an unspecified amount of money, asks anyone with information about the murder to contact Detective Russell Davidson of the Sonoma County Sheriff's Department, at (707) 527-3992.

Meanwhile, the refusal of police to provide information on the progress of their investigation has led to the proliferation of rumors. One of the rumors that is actually true, according to a close friend of Grahlmann who asked to remain anonymous, is that Grahlmann believed he was being stalked.

One thing police have confirmed is that the killings do not appear to have been random. ▼

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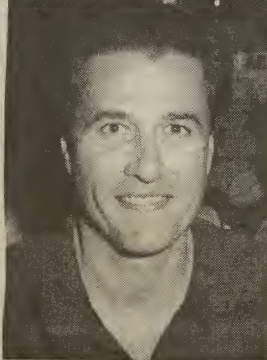
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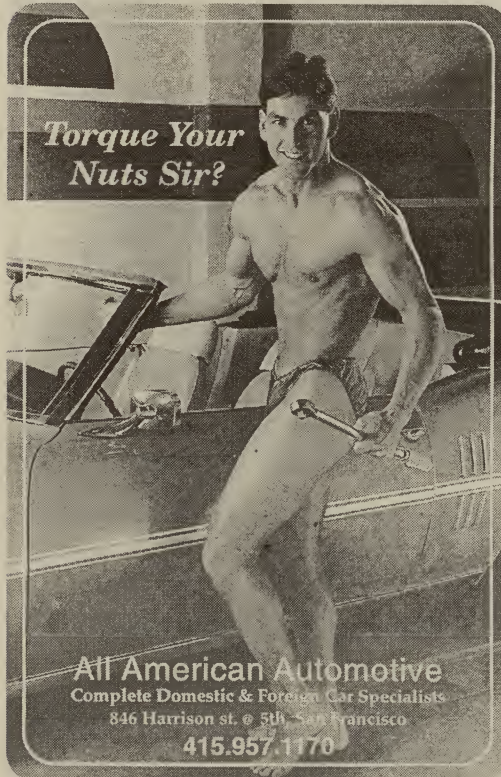
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Sworn friends



Gay city residents Timothy Wu, left, and David Jensen were sworn in by Mayor Willie Brown to the Asian Art Commission and Relocation Appeals Board respectively last Wednesday, November 18, along with Penney Magrane, a lesbian, who was re-appointed to the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Commission.

ACT UP/SF defector denies theft charges

by Cynthia Laird

Former ACT UP/San Francisco member Chris Abbott, who was accused by fellow members in early September of absconding with \$5,000 of the collective's money to purchase medical marijuana, has told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he doesn't look at what he did as stealing, and in an unsubstantiated countercharge, claimed other members regularly helped themselves to hundreds or even thousands of dollars to pay rent and other living expenses.

ACT UP/San Francisco frontman Michael Bellefountaine vehemently denied Abbott's allegations and maintained the group's financial records are open to anyone who wants to look at them. "Chris Abbott is a liar. It's absurd I'd take money from anyone," Bellefountaine told the *Bay Area Reporter* on Monday, November 23. He said he's well off financially due to a lawsuit settlement and his family members.

Abbott declined to reveal his whereabouts, fearing for his safety, but in an interview Thursday, November 19, he said that he simply got fed up with alleged verbal abuse from Bellefountaine and decided to leave town with some of the money after the drug deal he was to make went awry.

"I don't look at what I did as stealing. I went to make a deal," Abbott told the *B.A.R.* "I went in with \$4,000 and had a gun to my face and came out with half that. Half the money I gave to the



Michael Bellefountaine

homeless and the other half I lived on. I called to leave a voicemail and told them the deal went bad."

Within minutes of leaving the message, Abbott said, he began receiving voicemail messages threatening his life. "They called my mother, who was dying and has since died," said Abbott.

Abbott returned to San Francisco after the drug deal escapade, but left town, living for a time in Costa Rica before coming back to the United States.

Bellefountaine said the group gave Abbott the \$4,000 plus another \$1,000 to secure medical marijuana. The fact that Abbott called the *B.A.R.* "signifies his conscious is bothering him. For him to call months later is lame and inexcusable," Bellefountaine said, adding that anyone with knowledge of alleged improprieties against ACT UP/San Fran-

cisco members can come forward.

ACT UP/San Francisco is not affiliated with ACT UP/Golden Gate. Since the closure of Dennis Peron's Cannabis Healing Center in May, ACT UP/San Francisco has become one of the few medical marijuana collectives that remain open in the city.

Abbott said other club members helped themselves to profits from medical marijuana sales at the group's community space. "If I was to walk up to the till and took \$60, I'd be called a thief. If Michael took \$60, there was no questions. It's a huge double standard," Abbott said. "I was verbally abused every single day. Something degrading was said every day."

Abbott said all eight of the members were supposed to be equal in the collective, but that it's Bellefountaine who calls the shots. "Certain people take ... sometimes thousands of dollars," he said. "I'd see it happen everyday."

Bellefountaine said ACT UP/San Francisco has never hidden how much money they receive from medical marijuana sales and said the fact the group is so open poses a certain amount of risk to them in terms of continuing to sell medical marijuana when the state and federal government are actively seeking to close all such clubs. "In the month of September we made \$108,000 and spent \$110,000. We've never hidden that. We've had a responsibility to the community from the beginning," said Bellefountaine. ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

More Milk, rainbows, turkey for Thanksgiving

by Mark Norby

The Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy in the Castro invites everyone — gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, straight, young, old, those with or without homes — to Thanksgiving dinner on Thursday from 12 to 2 p.m. The academy is located at 4235 19th Street, between Collingwood and Diamond. The dinner is free. And it's for everyone!

The academy also invites everyone to worship services at Most Holy Redeemer at 100 Diamond Street, or at the Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco Thanksgiving worship at 150 Eureka Street. Both worship services begin at 10 a.m. If you have any questions about the dinner or the services, call Brian Sharber at (415) 865-2743.

The East Bay's Rainbow Community Center in Pleasant Hill will provide the turkey and asks those interested in attending the dinner to bring a side dish. The dinner is at 4 p.m., and the Rainbow Community Center is located at 2637 Pleasant Hill Road. Please RSVP ASAP to (925) 210-0563. All are welcome.

Tenderloin Tessie's annual "An American Thanksgiving: Dinner for Everyone" starts at 1 p.m. at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Francisco, 1187 Franklin Street at Geary. To volunteer or donate food or money, call A.L. Allen at (415) 621-4129 or Empress Phyllis at (415) 863-5277.

The Larkin Street Youth Center Volunteer and Training Department will serve more than 100 homeless and runaway youth at the First Presbyterian Church, located at 1751 Sacramento (at Van Ness). Those interested in helping with preparation, serving, clean-up and gift giving should call (415) 673-0911 ext. 222.

The Center for AIDS Services will serve Thanksgiving dinner to clients and their families from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., at 5720 Shattuck Avenue in Oakland. Call (510) 655-3435 for more information.

Happy Thanksgiving! ▼

Georgia sodomy

◀ page 1

could ever do."

The sodomy law also cost a Georgia lawyer her state job when then-Attorney General Michael Bowers rescinded a job offer to Robin Shahar in 1991 because she held a commitment ceremony with another woman.

Bowers, who successfully defended the state's anti-sodomy law to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1986, said he could not give "tacit approval to this purported marriage." ▼

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Up with Alice

San Francisco Supervisor Mabel Teng was surrounded by members of the Alice B. Toklas Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club and civic leaders as she unveiled the new Alice B. Toklas Place street sign last Thursday, November 19. The site is a one block alley of Myrtle Street running east to west from Van Ness Avenue to Polk Street, next to the AMC Theater. Toklas was the lover of Gertrude Stein and was born near the street that now bears her name.



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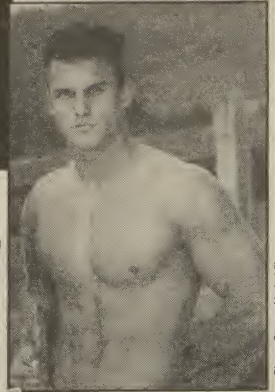


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Volume 28, Number 48
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OPEN FORUM

Give, thanks

How thankful are you this Thanksgiving? Are you fully appreciative that the elections earlier this month may have signaled that things are getting better, gradually, for people who aren't heterosexual conservatives? Are you grateful that this World AIDS Day on Tuesday will be witnessed by people who were expected to die of HIV infection years ago? Are you saddened by the American public's outrage at the death of Matthew Shepard? We are, and you are cordially invited to join us as we revel in the feeling of appreciation this Thanksgiving.

But (yes, we're "but" freaks here) we intend to use the measure of our thanks as a kind of yardstick against the yet-untraveled distance that looms before us. All of the things we mentioned are good omens of things that may occur in the future, but for now they are only portents, and without a lot more hard work they will evaporate like mirages.

So here at Thanksgiving, the traditional time for Americans to sit down and celebrate harvests, we would like to venerate this latest crop of good news, and focus on sowing what we hope to reap in the future. And we encourage others to bow their heads for a minute here and consider what they will sow, and how. The pilgrims who gathered for this holiday with their indigenous neighbors (before they took to slaughtering them) didn't say, "Thank God that's over with and we never have to go through that again."

They knew, as we should, that the work of survival never really ends. So let's get moving on these things, together.

Ending anti-gay violence, for example, may seem like an impossible dream, but consider this: there was a time when it was not uncommon for left-handers to be burned as heretics, until education replaced superstition about why those people were different. Only by educating others about us can we ensure that people will consider the persecution of homosexuals just as ignorant and horrid as burning left-handers. Some people do that kind of educating best in small groups; some in larger forums. Some are bulldozers and some are bridge builders. But all hands and talents will be needed to

reap this important harvest, and everyone should feel suffused with that work ethic—particularly as we move closer to that goal.

Similarly, if we want an end to AIDS, with people with HIV able to live full healthy lives with drug treatments that are less expensive, more precise, less prone to side effects, and more convenient, we need to work together. Take the time to write DuPont Pharmaceuticals and denounce the company's price-gouging for its new drug, if that's the way you feel you can be most helpful; but if that isn't your style, find other ways of helping to ameliorate the epidemic. Donate time or money, or help in creative ways that will astound your friends and improve your world.

And, of course, the eviction of reactionary Republicans from Congress must continue. There is much more to be done on the domestic front in this country that

has yet to distribute to its poor (including the exhausted and demoralized working poor) any of the peace dividend that we should be sharing nine years after the Cold War's end, or any of the prosperity dividend from this sustained "recovery." If we want that to happen, and for society to extend that kind of fairness into all area of life, we have to start working now.

Finally, as long as we are in a thankful mood (and no jokes about turkeys, please) we'd like to give thanks for our longest-continuing contributor, Dick Walters, better known as Sweetlips. The annual Sweetlips birthday bash is set for this Sunday, November 29, at the Rendezvous (1303 Polk Street), and if past fetes are any indication, it will be an afternoon to remember. Personally, we intend to ask him about that first Thanksgiving, at which, according to lore, he disgraced himself dreadfully. See you there. ▼



Editorial



Grading our schools

by Laura McAlpine, LCSW, Policy director, Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health

Matthew Shepard was a young gay man whose murder reflects the violence, both physical and verbal, that affects gay youth every day. To address anti-gay violence, we should examine not just its most extreme forms, but we must look at the places that allow it to grow and flourish.

Most young people spend much of their time every day in schools—Shepard was a college student himself. Alarmingly, recent studies show that gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered (GLBT) youth are five times more likely to miss school because of feeling unsafe and four times more likely to have been threatened with a weapon at school. A Des Moines, Iowa survey estimates that all youth in school hear sexual orientation slurs 26 times a day. GLBT youth are physically, verbally, and emotionally abused inside schools on a daily basis and the adults in charge of the schools are not protecting them.

Studies also tell us that while GLBT youth identified by their peers as gay or lesbian are at highest risk for health problems, heterosexual youth incorrectly targeted by their peers as gay or lesbian are second, followed by closeted gay kids, and lastly, straight youth whose sexual orientation is not questioned. In classroom focus groups across the state conducted by the Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health, young people report that their schools are not safe places for GLBT youth and have expressed concern about the violence and ridicule that

they witness by other youth and school personnel, including coaches, security guards, and support staff.

Intolerance and violence due to sexual orientation affects all young people regardless of their sexual orientation, not just because they themselves may be targeted by homophobia, but because all young people are at a stage in life when they form a sexual orientation identity. This normal developmental stage of exploring and questioning one's sexual identity can be fraught with fear, repression, and violence.

How can we help young people move from childhood to adulthood safely and with dignity and respect for their sexual orientation? We can start by asking the schools in our communities how they keep all young people safe, and how they teach them about tolerance of others based on differences—whether the differences are race, income, gender, ability, or sexual orientation. If you are in school, go to your head administrator and ask these questions. If you are a parent, go to your child's school and talk to your child's teacher, the principal, the local school council, and the Parent Teacher Association. Go to the school in your neighborhood. Call your local chapter of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network. Call Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. Show your school a copy of the Massachusetts Safe Schools Program for Gay and Lesbian Students. Find the resources in your community.

And then find GLBT youth and ask them how you can help. The GLBT young people

we work with at the caucus tell us that the gay and lesbian adult community does not reach out to them, and in fact avoids them for fear of being accused of recruiting or being sexual predators. These young people want adults as mentors, friends, and advocates. While anti-gay violence happens to people young and old, male and female, GLBT and straight, young people bear the brunt of the violence at a critical developmental stage. Without the support of adults they will continue to have disproportionately high health risks, including a suicide rate for GLBT youth three times that for heterosexual youth.

My daughter is seven years old, and my partner and I are lesbians. I have gone to her preschool, kindergarten, and first-grade teachers and administrators and asked them how they will keep her safe, how they will support children with lesbian and gay families, how they will keep GLBT youth safe, how they will teach tolerance, and how they will help young people come to understand their sexual orientation without repression and violence. On the morning when I heard that Matthew Shepard died, I watched my daughter happily run to greet her friends on the playground at her school. I wondered when the harassment by her peers would start because she has two moms. Third grade? Sixth grade? We must act together to end all forms of intolerance, and we can start by getting involved in schools where young children come with open minds and hearts, but too often graduate with bias and prejudice narrowing their world view. ▼

Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Super (nearly) thanks

I'm writing to thank the 17,233 voters who voted for me and to applaud the efforts of the other 16 candidates for the Board of Supervisors who had the leadership and courage of their convictions to put their ideas on the line — especially the other gay, lesbian, and transgendered candidates. With Bill "I'm a liar" Clinton and Willie "dictator" Brown in office it's even more critical that visionary, ethical, and honest leadership similar to that of the late Harvey Milk emerge to give us all hope for a better future. Thanks again to everyone who helped on my \$250 campaign.

Shawn O'Hearn
San Francisco

Fong sway?

Now that Matt Fong has distinguished himself by becoming the first politician in world history to sign a written affirmation of the civil rights of lesbians and gay men, what specific actions will he take to fulfill his obligation? Perhaps he can start by informing his client, damnation preacher Lou Sheldon that hate is not a family value.

John Frederic Millen
San Francisco

[Point of order: We believe Fong may be the first GOP politician to sign such an affirmation, but not the first politician in world history.]

Gloomy, overcast Friday

Wayne Friday is beginning to sound like a rejected lover. I don't find that the recent election confirms Friday's judgment that Clinton "has been a disaster" for the party. Many ordinary folks I met when I was walking precincts voiced their support of the president. And what happened to Friday's prediction that the president would resign within weeks?

President Clinton has clearly been the most gay-friendly of our presidents. We can thank him for that; he has plenty of detractors among our enemies. Clinton was not exactly an unknown quantity when he was elected to his second term. Perhaps Friday could do us all a favor and find a new tune to hum.

James Queen
San Francisco

[Editor's note: It is a new tune, although it's difficult to hear it through that mouthful of crow feathers.]

Modest achiever

I'm writing on behalf of myself, my organization, and Maria Gil de Lamadrid, who appeared in the *Bay Area Reporter* on November 12 as winner of the 1998 MS Achievement Award. I cannot express how pleased we were with the story's prominence in your paper. Maria truly is a remarkable individual and deserves the attention that the award has brought her.

She is modest, as you noted in the article, and I know she was surprised and touched by the story. Personally, I cut a caper similar to the one Tom Amiano was doing at the top of the page.

Terence Keane
Communications Manager
The National Multiple Sclerosis Society

Worse than death

Thank you for your article "Til death do us part? State retirement system difficult for gays" [October 29]. Actually it's worse than "til death do us part" for pre-1990 options. The member's monthly deductions don't even stop if the beneficiary dies and no one will ever benefit!

Assemblywoman Carole Migden's expressed interest in the problem is most encouraging in view of bringing about a means of relief from the lifetime contracts.

Thank you again for publishing the article. You should be complimented many times for your concern.

Lyle V. Helstrom
Manteca, CA

Seats of controversy

[The following was sent to the Castro Theater:]

How is it that the Castro Theater, which last year the Chronicle listed as one of the city's few successful single-screen movie theaters, can't afford to install new seats? The seats at your theater are old, worn-out, and damn uncomfortable. Twenty minutes into a film at the Castro and I need a smear of Preparation H and a back brace.

And now you're preparing to show the revised version of Bertolucci's *The Last Emperor*, which runs 220 minutes. Good grief! You won't see my ass at that one!

John H. Zaugg
San Francisco

Defense railing

I am disgusted to find out that Matthew Shepard had his head bashed in with a hand gun, was strapped across fence railing, and left out to die. I understand that coyotes are killed and strapped across fence railing to keep "other coyotes" out of the area.

Colorado! ... Tsk! ... The homophobic state that passed anti-gay legislation by a 52 percent majority and is headquarters for a branch of the Christian "Reich" in Colorado Springs. ... Why am I not surprised?

The Christian "Reich" homophobes are once again trying to use the defense that the killers experienced "homosexual panic," that torturing and killing Shepard was somehow inevitable because he supposedly had flirted with them. Well ... hello ... if you go into a homosexual environment and know someone is a homosexual ... who is the predator??

This was a well planned killing. The killers lured him out by pretending to be gay, then beat, tortured, and killed him. Their punishment should be nothing less than to be beaten, skinned, and left out on fence railing to ward-off other homophobes.

This killing should be a call to arms for all gay and lesbian people in America. We have been complacent far too long. We need to physically protect ourselves from the evil influences of the Christian "Reich," white supremacists, and the GOP conservative right agenda led by Senator Lott and his cronies. Matthew-like killings will only increase under the hate speech of these insane, out of touch, ignorant, intolerant religious bigots.

It is now time for all gay and lesbian Americans to enroll in self-defense and martial arts classes. Purchase pepper spray and use it. Learn how to use a hand gun and get special permission to carry a concealed weapon from our chief of police. We are an endangered minority group. We will have the right to do so!

If you feel you will be attacked by homophobes, use your weapon against your attackers. Shoot first; ask questions later. If you kill it will be in self-defense. Protect yourselves! The most precious life is your own. We need to protect our right to live. The most precious gift that God gave us is our life ... ask any "Operation Rescue" fanatic!

The hypocrites at the "Right to Life" campaign won't speak out against the violence of gay-bashing. The hypocrites in our Congress are openly hostile towards gay and lesbian people ... not even a dignified homosexual person like Jim Hormel can get appointed to an ambassadorship because he is gay.

The hypocritical Archbishop of the San Francisco Roman Catholic Diocese who was so vocal against "domestic partnership" benefits has not said a word about violence against gay and lesbian people ... he doesn't even acknowledge our presence in his churches. Let's not forget the Pope, who never once mentioned that homosexuals were also targeted and killed by the Nazis during the "Shoah."

No, my fellow gay and lesbian brothers and sisters ... we are on our own!! We have got nothing to lose! Let's get off our battered, low self-esteem asses and reclaim the respect and dignity of being human. The right to live our lives the way we were made to be. *Get a weapon ... and use it!* Become a Homosexual Army in defense of your life!

I will not be surprised by some letters to the editor in response to my call to arms. Some will say I'm way over the edge. Others will say "Forget violence, we will vote those bastards out who speak disparagingly against us." Some will say "this is an isolated incident." You will all be in denial of the truth.

We gay and lesbians are a targeted group. What's real scary about what I'm suggesting is that I am perfectly logical, calm in my convictions, and ready. Frankly, I've had it! I will strike out and kill anyone who threatens to take my life, a friend or family member's life. Get a weapon ... stay vigilant ... stay alive!

Charles Franco
San Francisco

[Calm, perhaps, but not logical. Nobody can (or should) argue that shooting strangers on the basis of fear is true self-defense. Take a self-defense class; take a time-out; take a Xanax if necessary, but don't perpetuate violence in Matthew Shepard's name.]

Passes and failures

I wonder how many straight men would be alive today if the gals gunned down every guy who made an unwanted pass at them? Fifty? Five? The Pope and Fabio? (And the Pope wasn't always a priest).

Women have actually made passes at me and lived to tell about it.

I suspect if these jerks in Wyoming ever had a choice between a blow job and the death penalty again they'd take the blow job.

But that's the big difference between two gay guys and two straight guys. With the straight guys you can't suck both their dicks ... at the same time.

David John Pini
San Francisco

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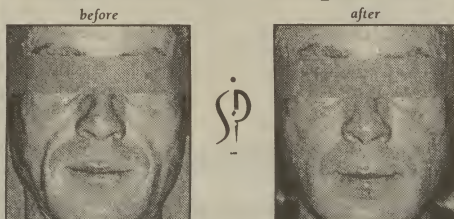
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And the story of the moral is ...

I read the letters by John Schank and Armand Boulay ["Morality is relative, naturally," and "Ban the Taliban mentality," October 15] that responded to my letter ["Morality isn't relative," September 23]. I then reviewed my original letter. What we have here is a failure to communicate. I'm not sure who Schank is referring to when he says "we apparently want to destroy a president." Couldn't be me. In my letter, I wrote "accepting responsibility," as I understand it means accepting the consequences of your misdeeds. I see nothing in the letter about "destroying" anyone, unless, John thinks that atonement is fatal (I believe in AA, atonement is the eighth step). As far as lying, Clinton has lied about the draft, smoking marijuana, the Gennifer Flowers affair, etc. I'd call this a pretty clear psychological pattern.

I addressed truthfulness and the recognition of the difference between privacy and secrecy. Harriet Goldhor Lerner, psychologist and author of *The Dance of Deception*, defines privacy as the keeping of personal thoughts and beliefs to oneself; secrecy is hiding actions or deeds that would lower your esteem in others' eyes, thereby preventing them from making an informed decision about staying connected to you. Clinton's lack of integrity is obvious using this definition: Do you advocate the "well-the-Republicans-did-wrong-so-the-Democrats-are-entitled" strategy?

Matthew Shepard's alleged killers are an example of "relative morality" at work. Relative morality encourages racism, repression, gay bashing, etc. by placing ethics on a "sliding scale." Without a fixed code of ethics, one can justify any wrongdoing.

I suggested Clinton face the consequences; not that he accept impeachment, but you inferred that anyway. Your issue. And what disturbs you so much that you term my letter "negative?" It offers provocative but intelligent criticisms. Criticism precedes change. The civil rights movement began with criticism. Was Martin Luther King "negative?" Malcolm X? Words can be used to anger and enlighten simultaneously, as Jesus, Mohammed, and Gandhi know. An open mind will question before it rejects.

On the McKinney issue, we must have read different accounts of the trial. He was convicted of attempting to obstruct justice (in other words, hiding the facts; exactly like Clinton). Nonetheless, I think, perhaps the subtleties of racism elude you. I cannot address that myself. There is, however, the Implicit Attitude Test created by the University of Washington and Yale University scientists that tests inherent (unconscious) racism. Take it at <http://depts.washington.edu/iat>. CBS Evening News recently covered this story. Many of us who take it (including black people) are likely to find we are more racist than they allow themselves to acknowledge. It's enlightening.

By the way, the most recent Field poll shows that "public" support is perceptibly shifting away from Clinton. Field predicted this months ago. He knows, as do psychologists, that critical faculties freeze in the face of shocking revelations and painful disclosures/disappointments, but return over extended time. He is the expert on public attitudes. So, Armand, your statement about my "expressing dismay over those who overwhelmingly support the president" may need revision. I spoke to your letter, which spoke of "lying politicians." Yet now, you "overwhelmingly support our president?" And did you not compare Clinton's affair as not being "any worse than" Thomas Jefferson's slave-master relationship? Could you possibly make a more telling statement about slavery or about relationships between people in unequal positions of power? Recently, the Reverend Bell, a well-known black minister, said about Clinton that people confuse "forgiveness" and "reconciliation." Forgiveness, he says, is a start, but he adds that Clinton must take steps to atone and rebuild the trust that he destroyed by betraying his friends, family, advisors et al.

And, regardless of what black leaders are saying, the poverty level for black families and teenagers in America has increased by .6 percent in the past two years. Progress?! For whom? As for Lani Guinier, you miss the point by the proverbial country mile, Armand. Is casting aspersions on Guinier's professional integrity and then destroying their "friendship" a comment on Guinier's "qualifications?" Have you read her book *The Tyranny of the Majority*? It suggests methods for increasing minority voices in voting, not quotas! Guinier recently stated that she hasn't heard from or spoken to Clinton since he withdrew her nomination. Betraying a (true) friend is, in my book, never acceptable. I am aligned to the Reverend King's belief: judge a man by the content of his character.

Finally, Meg Greenfield of *Newsweek*, in her October 13 column stated, with respect to Clinton's credibility, that he "has already lost." Isn't that what I said?

I will admit one thing: you both forced me to re-examine what I was saying. I think it's more correct to say that social "mores" are relative to society and the individual. Morality (i.e. ethics) hasn't changed much over time. Still, I couldn't agree less with what you consider acceptable conduct. And never will. What we have here is a failure to communicate.

Glen McLeod
San Francisco

In praise of caregivers ...

Imagine an industry with 95 million employees working in almost every city in the country. It would employ more people than the U.S. government, more than the "Big Three" automakers, the computer software industry, or the oil industry.

It may surprise you to learn that there is such an industry, but the workers don't get paid — at least not in money. And the product they give is love, skilled care, time, and energy to a loved one who is disabled from illness or age.

A United Hospital Fund study made a conservative estimate of the economic value of private caregiving in America. Their answer was: 25.5 million caregivers working an average of 17.9 hours a week for an hourly wage of \$8.18 an hour provided \$194 billion to the U.S. economy.

To put that figure in perspective, nationwide expenditures for all paid home health care in 1996 was \$30 billion, and \$79 billion for the entire nursing home industry.

It is especially appropriate to celebrate National Family Caregivers Week, November 22-28, the week of Thanksgiving. In this week when we celebrate together as friends and families, let's also thank the 25 million family caregivers who give more than money can buy to their loved ones — because they care. Our theme for 1998 is "Share the Caring."

Home Care Companions is a nonprofit program that has been providing training and support free of charge for family caregivers for over ten years. These classes are ongoing in the community and we encourage people who are caring for someone to contact us for further information at (415) 563-9286.

I'd like your readers to think about their extended family and circle of friends and co-workers. They will probably think of several who take care of a chronically ill or infirm spouse, child or parent. Then I'd like to ask them to take the time to acknowledge the challenges the caregiver willingly carries, out of love, and offer to share the caring just a little bit.

Jocelia Adams
Executive Director
Home Care Companions

GAWKing at talent

Please inform the community that the Gay Artists and Writers Collective (GAWK) provides bands, DJs, entertainment, and security for parties and events.

We are recruiting bass players and comedy writers. We also co-publish, through Gay Lesbian Bisexual Publishing Company. For more information, call me at GAWK (415) 731-2424.

Jon Sugar
GAWK
San Francisco

Taking a Denny out of denigration

We at the Denny's at Fisherman's Wharf have been taking a lot of flak about the corporate Denny's problem (i.e., racism, homophobia, etc.). We are perceived as the same sort of people, merely because of the name, and no consideration is given to us as we are locally owned and have the most diversified restaurant in the city, hiring all ethnic backgrounds and treating all of our customers in a fair manner.

Most recently we had our annual Halloween costume contest this year, raising money for AIDS. Just thought people might want to know.

Richard Bennett
General Manager, Denny's Fisherman's Wharf
San Francisco

Protect people, not trademarks

The following is an open letter to Elizabeth Birch, executive director, Human Rights Campaign:

I was astounded by the piece in Fall '98 HRC Quarterly regarding trademarking the HRC logo. Had not the Supreme Court upheld the right of the U.S. Olympic Committee to regulate use of the word "Olympics," I would have thought your trademark protection of an equality symbol in gold on blue out of order.

Nevertheless, HRC's exhortation to report instances of your logo's "appearing on some other group's work or showing up somewhere in the wrong colors or dimensions" leaves me baffled. What action by your organization may I anticipate if, for example, this logo should show up in red and white in the "right" dimensions? Might you also be worried that students of mathematical texts will flood you with instances of its showing up in various dimensions in black and white?

Can you really think that trademarking your logo will advance the human rights espoused by HRC? I doubt that HRC would even exist had the rainbow flag been trademarked by its creator or by the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Committee 20 years ago.

Should I encounter what I suspect you're looking for, I will send a copy to the U.S. Olympic Committee.

Reid Condit
San Francisco

POLITICS

Watt's up in the GOP?

by Wayne Friday

House Republicans last week chose Louisiana Representative **Bob Livingston** as the new House speaker, Representative **J.C. Watts** of Oklahoma as the new chair of the Republican Conference (the number four GOP House leadership post), and Virginia Representative **Tom Davis** as head of the GOP's National Campaign Committee, apparently hoping that they would be seen as a "new, galvanized, more centrist" leadership team. Hardly so, however.



Representative J.C. Watts

Since someone had to take the blame for the party's stinging midterm losses, **Newt Gingrich** got booted for unilaterally deciding to run those ill-fated anti-Clinton sex-scandal television ads the final two weeks of the campaign, and for having publicly promised only weeks before the November 3 elections that "I'll never again make a campaign speech without mentioning the **Monica Lewinsky**, as if you didn't know" issue." Those two decisions broke the back of the Republican party and helped them lose five House seats to the Democrats. Still, the "new leadership" group that the Republicans chose last week still looks very much like the "gang of Newt." First, they voted to keep Representative **Dick Armey** (Texas), who has made more than his share of anti-gay comments on the House floor (among them: referring to Representative **Barney Frank** as "Barney Fag") and re-elected Representative **Tom DeLay** of Texas, another proclaimed enemy of the gay community, as its powerful minority whip.

Although most Washington Republicans would like us to see the speaker-elect as a moderate with a more "compassionate conservative" style than Gingrich, Livingston's record shows otherwise. The political views of Livingston, Armey, Davis, and, yes, even Watts are precisely those of the deposed Gingrich, U.S. Senate Majority Leader, **Trent Lott** (who was also retained last week), and the national chair of the Republican Party, a man the GOP seems determined to retain when the Republican National Committee meets in a few weeks.

As for Watts, the only African-American Republican in the House, who regularly gets re-elected in a district that is 80 percent white outside Oklahoma City, he can hardly be called a

"moderate," no matter what his race is. An ordained Baptist minister, he is avidly anti-abortion, does not support gay rights, extols the Republican ideals of self-reliance and "responsible morality" and once referred to other black politicians (apparently referring to the Reverend **Jesse Jackson**, among others) as "race-baiting poverty pimps whose careers hinge on keeping black people dependent on government." Watts surely is an attractive face, but his record is perfectly in step with the GOP House leadership and his appointment is political window-dressing at most.

Nope, no "new ideas" for the Republicans, despite their dismal showing on November 3. We can still expect to see Armey (in particular), speaker-to-be Livingston (eventually), and even Watts (likely), railing on television against the "sin" of homosexuality, backing up Lott's homophobic views.

Look also for them to continue to proclaim that

there is no "middle ground" on the abortion issue – and even less room in the Republican Party for those who think there is. They aren't likely to soon learn that it was precisely issues like abortion and gay-bashing that helped their party lose some key races November 3. There are no indications from the new GOP leadership that things will be any different as they prepare for the 2000 elections, even though kissing up to the religious right spelled doom for most of those candidates who so proudly wore the endorsement of anti-gay and anti-abortion leaders like **Gary Bauer** and **Ralph Reed**. A look at election results clearly shows that the support of the high-profile religious right couldn't even win in the deep South, much less on the coasts. In New York and in California, **Chuck Schumer** and **Gray Davis** successfully impaled **Al D'Amato** and **Dan Lungren** on their efforts to reverse *Roe v. Wade*. And it was, as we all now know, in California (a place the *New York Times* says is "always a snapshot of the political future") that the campaign of Republican candidate **Matt Fong**'s (once well ahead in the race) went into a meltdown after it was revealed that he had given \$50,000 to the homophobic Traditional Values Coalition. Republicans in California by the score – who despise **Barbara Boxer** politically – ended up voting for her, rather than chance the two-faced Fong.

Missouri U.S. Senator **John Ashcroft**, one of the Republican Party's most anti-gay, anti-abortion conservatives (who is looking to **Pat Robertson**'s Christian Coalition, **Lou Sheldon**'s Traditional Values Coalition, and other far right religious groups for support as he seeks the GOP presidential nomination in 2000), campaigned endlessly for candidates in four top presidential primary states this year – and all four lost. Even in Colorado, home to the anti-gay **James Dobson**'s Focus on the Family, a supposedly slam-dunk ballot initiative outlawing so-called "partial birth abortions" went down to defeat.

Politics and people –

Now if the **Mabel Teng**, **Amos Brown**, and **Fong** campaigns would kindly remove their

ugly, tired campaign signs on Castro, maybe the street could get back to looking halfway decent again – except, of course, for the increasing numbers of panhandlers there; at 10 a.m. Saturday morning there were four young men (all seemingly under the age of 20) sitting on the sidewalk directly outside Walgreen's, hitting up the passersby and the store's customers – with another two doing the "spare change?" number directly around the corner on 18th Street. Hey, if Mayor **Willie Brown** really wants to know why his job approval ratings are going south, those close to him must start emphasizing that this problem is right up there with Muni as an issue that will spell big trouble

for Brown as next year's election approaches.

Even some of Brown's supporters are privately admitting that the homeless problem is now worse than it was under former Mayor **Frank Jordan**, and the issue was

even fodder for a front page story recently in the *New York Times*, which pointed out that "San Francisco, the 13th largest city in the country, has the third highest population of the homeless, after only New York City and Los Angeles." While everyone agrees that something has to be done to help the city's homeless, the problem is only growing, and residents, merchants, and tourists alike will tell you they are getting increasingly fed up, and whether Brown likes it or not, they hold him responsible.

This Friday, November 27, marks the 20th anniversary of the murders of Mayor **George Moscone** and Supervisor **Harvey Milk**. Mayor Brown and city officials remembered the contributions of Moscone and Milk Tuesday at a commemorative service at the San Francisco Opera House; a memorial candlelight march will be held this Friday, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at Castro and 19th streets honoring the late Harvey Milk, an icon who many now see as the father of the gay rights movement in San Francisco and the late mayor, George Moscone, one of the best friends that our movement ever had, both in his personal life and as a government official.

Hope to see you there. ▼

Castro tree

◀ page 1

"It is our hope that the tree will serve as a proud and emphatic symbol, celebrating the diversity of our community," said Jeff Ward, MUMC's holiday tree chairperson.

Members of MCC-SF's choir will provide the appropriate mood for the occasion by performing their renditions of various holiday standards. Additionally, children from the Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy will be on hand selling roasted chestnuts to raise money for school-related programs.

Major sponsors for the holiday tree include Alternative Mortgage Sources, Castro Street Fair, Inc., Herth Real Estate, Jamba Juice, Le Salon Entertainment, Marcello's Pizza, and Stadtlanders Pharmacy. ▼

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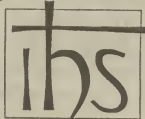


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Contradyketions

It's the same ... only different

by Nancy Boutilier

In spring 1891 one Alice Mitchell of Memphis, Tenn., proposed to one Freda Ward. In fact, she extended the offer in three separate letters, and Freda, called Fred, agreed to become Alice Mitchell's wife. Alice gave Fred an engagement ring and the two planned their elopement.

One hundred years later, in spring 1991, I wrote the above paragraph, paraphrased from Jonathan Katz's *Gay American History* (Harper and Row, 1976) to kick off my first opinion piece for this paper. A few more commentaries later and I had earned myself a column under the heading "Dykeotomy," which ran until the spring of 1995 when I felt as though I was running out of opinions, or at least repeating myself too often, and that perhaps readers would enjoy hearing someone else's two cents worth. There was also that other job, teaching high school English, that was competing for my time and energy. Well, I'm back, not sure what I'll have to say this time around, but happy to be under my old banner "Dykeotomy."

I've always distrusted dichotomies — male/female, black/white, good/evil, love/hate — because life is so often lived in the complexities of the inbetween, the muddle that is rich with gray. So, with "Dykeotomy" I hope to offer



something beyond polar opposites, an answer not distilled to true or false. A party line of one, not dictated by either side of the aisle, sometimes two sides of the same coin, both sides of which can seem to have little gray matter at times.

So, how does one pick up where I left off more than three years ago? Maybe right where I started.

Let's return to the story of Alice and Freda. It turns out that things did not go well for out the pioneering dyke couple. Freda's sister discovered the marriage plan and successfully interfered. Kept from the woman she loved, Alice grew desperate. Her frustration festered and eventually, she killed her beloved Freda when she realized that their dream of being together had been shattered by others.

I hope you can see why I chose this story as a backdrop to my opinion piece about the importance of San Francisco's then-new domestic partner's ordinance. The sad tale gave me a chance to celebrate how far we've come in 100 years. I wanted to urge San Franciscans to take advantage of registration as a means of visibility for themselves and for those people around the country and around the world who have unbearable homophobia in the way of their love and their dreams.

Now, almost eight years later, as we look toward the next century, I see that we can look forward

to a statewide ballot measure in the year 2000 that would make legal only marriages between a man and a woman. Of course, Congress already did that dirty work with the Defense of Marriage Act, allowing states to ignore same-sex unions licensed in other states. In fact, 29 states have already banned gay marriage, and thanks to state Senator Pete Knight (R-Palmdale) and the 677,000 signers of his petition, we can vote to be the 30th state to ban gay marriage — or vote not to be number 30 in the bigot parade.

Either way the voting goes, the ballot initiative is measure enough to know that the Alice and Freda of today are not in the clear yet. Or, as my best friend in high school used to say: "I guess it's the same ... only different."

Ah, how rich are the contradyketions, those ideas that seem to cancel each other out, but really just point to the complexity of it all. It's as if what is illogical on one level somehow holds true in some queer dimension. In my twilight zone, for instance, it's true that gay men and lesbians are just like everyone else. Yet it's also true that there's something "other" about being queer in our culture. We're the same, only different. We have the potential to be a community, but not a monolith. We have commonalities and patterns, but we're not all of the same cloth.

Cruising back through my old

page 27 ►

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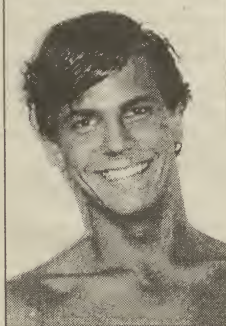
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Greta and Marlene ride Mercedes

by David Bianco

I found no surprises in the Kinsey report," actress Tallulah Bankhead reportedly said. Bankhead knew that some of the most glamorous stars of Hollywood's golden age (from the advent of talking pictures through the 1940s), were part of an underground network of lesbians and bisexual women in the movie industry.

Greta Garbo was one of the most famous movie stars of her time, attracting both male and female audiences with her seductive beauty and enigmatic charm. Starting out in silent films, Garbo's first talkie was *Anna Christie* (1930). Her deep, sexy voice and tough demeanor made her very first lines of dialogue legendary - "Gimme a whisky, ginger ale on the side. And don't be stingy, baby." Garbo's gender-bending role in *Queen Christina* (1933), in which she cross-dressed and kissed her female co-star on the lips, has become a cult favorite among lesbians.

"I shall die a bachelor," Garbo-as-Christina vowed. Like the Swedish queen she played, Garbo never married, and although she had affairs with men, it was commonly believed among Hollywood insiders that she preferred women. After a much-publicized romance with leading man John Gilbert, Garbo fell for female screenwriter Mercedes de Acosta in 1931. Garbo later credited de Acosta with inspiring her portrayal of *Queen Christina*. The suave de Acosta had been in and out of the beds of the most respected stage actresses of the time, including Eva La Gallienne and Katharine Cornell. When Garbo dumped her, she quickly took up with Hollywood's other husky-voiced sensation, Marlene Dietrich.

Like Garbo, Dietrich was famous for her androgynous sex appeal and a screen persona that defied strict gender classification. While her characters fell in love with men, they were always incredibly butch women. Studio publicists promoted Dietrich as "the woman even women can adore." Such Dietrich classics as *Morocco* (1930) and *Blonde Venus* (1932), in which she donned a top hat and tux and sang in her throaty contralto, are particularly memorable to lesbian and gay viewers.

Though she was married, Dietrich's relationship with her husband was long-distance and non-exclusive. He had a long-term mistress, and she had just about everyone else, including Maurice Chevalier, Yul Brynner, and journalist Edward R. Murrow. But she also enjoyed a host of female lovers, like de Acosta and French

novelist Colette. Rumors of Dietrich's lesbian relationships had little effect on her popularity or her career, which continued unabated into the 1960s.

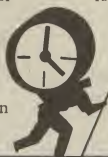
Dietrich didn't seem to care what anyone thought about her love life, and Tallulah Bankhead was equally unconcerned about gossip. Bankhead's one-liners about her own bisexuality have become famous in lesbian and gay culture. "Daddy always warned me about men and alcohol," she reputedly quipped, "but he never said a thing about women and cocaine."

Garbo, however, was uncomfortable with public scrutiny. Edmund Goulding, the gay filmmaker who directed Garbo in the classic *Grand Hotel* (1932), once implied that the star retired from

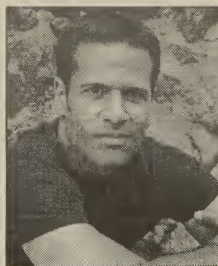
movies in 1941 at the age of 36 because the pressure of hiding her lesbianism became too great. Whatever her reasons, Garbo fiercely protected her privacy until her death in 1990, making her classic line from *Grand Hotel*, "I want to be alone," a reality.

Fifty years later, of course, not much has changed in Hollywood, where actresses still follow the same patterns of playing butch roles but keeping mum about their personal lives (Jodie Foster) to making the cachet of lesbianism part of their schtick (Madonna). ▼

David Bianco, M.A. is the author of *Modern Jewish History for Everyone*. He can be reached care of this publication or at AriBianco@aol.com. For more *Past Out*, visit www.gay.net.

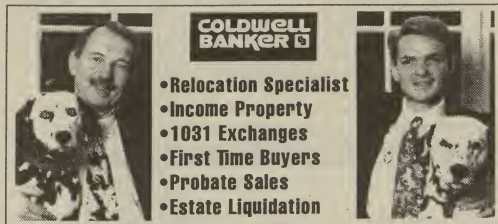


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Pit bullies on Polk

by Ron McGlashan, SFPD
Office of Public Affairs

Friday, November 20, 11 p.m., Polk and Sutter: A gang of the locals hanging out at the Muni bus stop on the northeast corner of the intersection were encouraging their pit bull terrier to attack people who walked past them on the sidewalk.

The dog didn't attack, but the intent of the owner was there. After the dog owner finished a liter of beer at the bus stop, he threw the bottle toward the head of a homeless woman who frequents the area. Three units of the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) arrived on the scene and went looking for the suspects. Sergeant Dempsey of the Northern station said, "This is new activity in this area and will not be tolerated. I have a few questions for the owner of the animal in question."

The car that patrols this area is on the lookout. In the meantime, animal control officers have been notified. Sergeant Choy of animal control states, "In a case like this, the owners will be cited and the animal will be taken into custody. This is extremely dangerous and this activity will be dealt with heavily."

Bus hits, drags blind man

Friday, November 20, 8 p.m., Larkin and Ellis: A blind man was struck by a tourist bus as he attempted to cross Larkin Street. The bus was traveling westbound on Ellis, and as it turned onto Larkin, the pedestrian was struck and dragged several feet. The fire department arrived and freed the man, who was treated and transported to the San Francisco General Hospital by paramedics. The street light on the corner of Larkin and Ellis was not functioning properly at the time of the accident. Report a non-working street light to the Department of Public Works right away.

Knife assault in Cow Hollow

Saturday, November 21, 11 p.m., Polk and Green: Three men on foot approached and assaulted a man with what the victim claimed was a box cutter-type of a weapon. The victim was treated on the scene for a lacerated hand and police searched the area, but no suspects were found. Any knife used in the commission of a crime is considered a deadly weapon.

25 MPC Code strictly enforced on Polk Street

Numerous citations have been issued for 25 MPC - "No Trespassing" - violations, and repeat offenders have been arrested. The merchants in the area posted

these signs to protect their property, and as a result the word is getting out that the SFPD and merchants mean business. The prostitution traffic is decreasing because of these signs. Don't let your front door become an intake area for prostitutes or Johns.

Upcoming GHB seminars to begin in the Castro

The SFPD narcotics division, the paramedic division of the fire department, and University of California, San Francisco pharmacology professor Dr. Joanne Whitney will hold a series of seminars to address the problem of GHB, or gamma hydroxy butyric acid. This drug is now a federally controlled substance and falls under Schedule Three; GHB manufacturing, trafficking, and possession are all now federal offenses. The site of the first seminar will be the Collingwood Recreation Center, and will take place in January.

Bartender assists cab driver

A bartender in the Polk Street area was on his way home in a cab when a message came out over the air that a cab driver had been assaulted in his cab. At the intersection of Gough and Market, the bartender and cab driver saw a man who matched the description given over the air of the suspect. The cab pulled over and the two men approached the man, leading to a brief scuffle. Other cab drivers soon arrived on the scene, directly followed by police. The suspect was taken into custody on charges of battery. Good work, Kiwi.

Knifed bartender recovering

Jeff Horn, the bartender that was stabbed in the back at Kimo's during an attempted strong arm robbery, is back on his feet and slowly getting back to normal. Although the suspect is still at large, Horn said he is touched by how

next page▶

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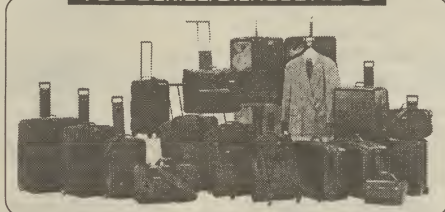
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Wrap group



Volunteers at Marlana's recently helped wrap presents to donate for the Godfather Service Fund's annual gift-giveaway. The tastefully decorated items will be bestowed on hospitalized patients during the holidays. Pictured (L to R) are Larry Cook, Tom Vindeep (Chair) and Bob Docca (Dowager Chair).

Crime & Pun.

◀ previous page

the community has reached out to help him in the aftermath of the attack. Continue to support Horn and people like him who have been victims of senseless violence.

Help with PTSD from SFPD

In closing this week's crime watch, the Office of Public Affairs and the investigations unit of the SFPD urge victims of violent crimes to seek follow-up attention. In many cases, the physical injury is minor compared to the emotional damage caused by a traumatic experience. Feelings of isolation, repeated nightmares, or anything that is out of the ordinary are the first signs of PTSD, or Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. This problem is difficult to come to terms with alone, but easy to address and treat through therapy. Join the thousands who have

normalized the problem. Get help. Contact the Victim Witness Program at (415) 553-1752. Until next week, be safe. ▼

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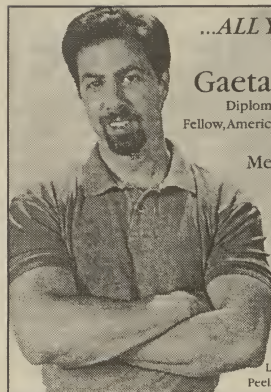
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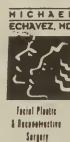
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*Based on vertex studies at 24 months of men 18 to 41 with mild to moderate hair loss.

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Only a doctor can determine if PROPECIA is right for you. PROPECIA is for **men only**. Further, women who are or may potentially be pregnant must not use PROPECIA and should not handle crushed or broken tablets because of the risk of a specific kind of birth defect. (See accompanying Patient Information for details.) PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling.

You may need to take PROPECIA daily for three months or more to see visible results. PROPECIA may not regrow all your hair. And if you stop using this product, you will gradually lose the hair you have gained. There is not sufficient evidence that PROPECIA works for recession at the temporal areas. If you haven't seen results after 12 months of using PROPECIA, further treatment is unlikely to be of benefit.

Like all prescription products, PROPECIA may cause side effects. A very small number of men experienced certain side effects, such as: less desire for sex, difficulty in achieving an erection, and a decrease in the amount of semen. Each of these side effects occurred in less than 2% of men. These side effects were reversible and went away in men who stopped taking PROPECIA. They also disappeared in most men (58%) who continued taking PROPECIA.

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Please read the next page for additional information about PROPECIA.

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Catch the Vibe

by Liz Tracey, GLAAD publications manager

In the December/January issue of *Vibe* magazine, writer Larry Flick writes a moving essay on the late openly gay singer Sylvester, whose hits defined a generation not only of music, but of the 1970s lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community. Flick talks of Sylvester's music capturing what it was like to be a young, African-American gay

man, and how it so moved him. Sylvester, who died of AIDS-related causes in 1986, left a legacy for this young writer, and others like him, and seeing him celebrated in this way is both groundbreaking and welcome.

Vibe covers hip-hop culture, and at first glance may seem to be an unlikely publication to carry this piece, because of the macho culture associated with much of the music. In another article, the female trio Total is given significant coverage, including a lengthy discussion of controversy around their sexual orientation, some of which was generated by statements of the members of the trio. The reporter states that in this industry, no one is "all the way" out, and for Total to even "toy" with same-sex attraction is risky career-wise. Obviously, it would be ideal if musicians could be out, and have it not be an issue, but *Vibe*'s addressing the topic is a welcome "breaking of the silence" around hip-hop and homosexuality.

A third piece on the controversy surrounding the new film *The Siege* features an extensive discussion of the history of film protests by groups and organizations concerned with fair

portrayals of minorities, including comments from GLAAD's Director of Community Relations Cathy Renna.

Please thank *Vibe* for their December/January issue, which is an important and valuable step forward in making LGBT people more visible in an arena where they are often invisible and sometimes vilified.

Contact Mr. Jesse Washington, Managing Editor, *Vibe*, 215 Lexington Ave., Sixth Floor, New York, NY 10016-6022.

Stupid software tricks

In a current print advertisement for McAfee anti-virus computer software, one of the best-selling programs of its kind, the headline reads "It's nice to know about something before it becomes a problem." You see a minister, and two hands: one appears to be male, the other female, presumably at a marriage ceremony. A third hand holds a note reading "She's a man!"

Obviously, McAfee thinks that this is an amusing way to

tout their anti-virus software as being so good, it "catches" problems before you could know about them. Unfortunately, it also demonstrates a clear-cut disregard for transgender people.



Please write to Network Associates, Inc., and tell them that showing ignorance about transgender people is no way to sell software, let alone treat others.

Contact Ms. Jennifer Keavney, Public Relations Department, Network Associates, Inc., 3965 Freedom Circle, Santa Clara, CA 95054.

Judge Judy lays down the law

On Wednesday, November 18 Judge Judy Sheindlin of the highly rated syndicated program *Judge Judy* presided over a case between two lesbians who had been former lovers. Regina Gaeta accused her former girlfriend Erlinda Alarcon of using her name and driver's license number on a traffic ticket. While the two argued their case, Judge Judy stuck to the issue at hand,

seemingly never giving the plaintiff and defendant's sexual orientation any thought. Her signature cut-to-the-chase, no nonsense style was consistently reserved for the facts of the case.

Please thank Sheindlin and the producers of *Judge Judy* for handling this case responsibly, and not succumbing to a problem that often plagues some syndicated programs: unnecessarily playing up a sensational aspect in an attempt to secure ratings.

Contact Judge Judy Sheindlin, Host, and Randall Douthit and Peter Brennan, Executive Producers, *Judge Judy*, 1438 N. Gower, Building 48, Los Angeles, CA 90028-8383. ▼

GLAAD promotes fair, accurate, and inclusive representation as a means of challenging discrimination based on sexual orientation or identity. Contact GLAAD by e-mail at glaad@glaad.org or by phone at (415) 861-2244. Report defamation in the media by calling GLAAD's toll-free AlertLine! 1-800-GAY-MEDIA (1-800-429-6334).

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Please read this leaflet before you start taking PROPECIA. Also, read the information included with PROPECIA each time you renew your prescription, just in case anything has changed. Remember, this leaflet does not take the place of careful discussions with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss PROPECIA when you start taking your medication and at regular checkups.

What is PROPECIA used for?

PROPECIA is used for the treatment of male pattern hair loss on the vertex and the anterior mid-scalp area.
PROPECIA is for use by MEN ONLY and should NOT be used by women or children.

What is male pattern hair loss?

Male pattern hair loss is a common condition in which men experience thinning of the hair on the scalp. Often, this results in a receding hairline and/or balding on the top of the head. These changes typically begin gradually in men in their 20s. Doctors believe male pattern hair loss is due to heredity and is dependent on hormonal effects. Doctors refer to this type of hair loss as androgenetic alopecia.

Results of clinical studies:

For 12 months, doctors studied over 1800 men aged 18 to 41 with mild to moderate amounts of ongoing hair loss. All men, whether receiving PROPECIA or placebo (a pill containing no medication) were given a medicated shampoo (Neutrogena T/Gel™ Shampoo). Of these men, approximately 1200 with hair loss at the top of the head were studied for an additional 12 months. In general, men who took PROPECIA maintained or increased the number of visible scalp hairs and noticed improvement in their hair in the first year, with the effect maintained in the second year. Hair counts in men who did not take PROPECIA continued to decrease.

In one study, patients were questioned on the growth of body hair. PROPECIA did not appear to affect hair in places other than the scalp.

Will PROPECIA work for me?

For most men, PROPECIA increases the number of scalp hairs, helping to fill in thin or balding areas of the scalp. Men taking PROPECIA noted a slowing of hair loss during two years of use. Although results will vary, generally you will not be able to grow back all of the hair you have lost. There is not sufficient evidence that PROPECIA works in the treatment of receding hairline in the temporal area on both sides of the head.

Male pattern hair loss occurs gradually over time. On average, healthy hair grows only about half an inch each month. Therefore, it will take time to see any effect.

You may need to take PROPECIA daily for three months or more before you see a benefit from taking PROPECIA. PROPECIA can only work over the long term if you continue taking it. If the drug has not worked for you in twelve months, further treatment is unlikely to be of benefit. If you stop taking PROPECIA, you will likely lose the hair you have gained within 12 months of stopping treatment. You should discuss this with your doctor.

How should I take PROPECIA?

Follow your doctor's instructions.

- Take one tablet by mouth each day.
- You may take PROPECIA with or without food.
- If you forget to take PROPECIA, do not take an extra tablet. Just take the next tablet as usual.

PROPECIA will not work faster or better if you take it more than once a day.

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MERCK & CO., INC., West Point, PA 19486, USA
Issued December 1997
9090801

982306(3/91)-PPR

Patient Information about PROPECIA®

(Pro-pee-sha)

Generic name: finasteride
(fin-AS-tur-eyed)

Who should NOT take PROPECIA?

- PROPECIA is for the treatment of male pattern hair loss in MEN ONLY and should not be taken by women or children.
- Anyone allergic to any of the ingredients.

A warning about PROPECIA and pregnancy.

- Women who are or may potentially be pregnant:
 - must not use PROPECIA
 - should not handle crushed or broken tablets of PROPECIA.

If a woman who is pregnant with a male baby absorbs the active ingredient in PROPECIA, either by swallowing or through the skin, it may cause abnormalities of a male baby's sex organs. If a woman who is pregnant comes into contact with the active ingredient in PROPECIA, a doctor should be consulted. PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling, provided that the tablets are not broken or crushed.

What are the possible side effects of PROPECIA?

Like all prescription products, PROPECIA may cause side effects. In clinical studies, side effects from PROPECIA were uncommon and did not affect most men. A small number of men experienced certain sexual side effects. These men reported one or more of the following: less desire for sex; difficulty in achieving an erection; and, a decrease in the amount of semen. Each of these side effects occurred in less than 2% of men. These side effects went away in men who stopped taking PROPECIA. They also disappeared in most men who continued taking PROPECIA.

The active ingredient in PROPECIA is also used by older men at a five-times higher dose to treat enlargement of the prostate. Some of these men reported other side effects, including problems with ejaculation, breast swelling and/or tenderness and allergic reactions such as lip swelling and rash. In clinical studies with PROPECIA, these side effects occurred as often in men taking placebo as in those taking PROPECIA.

Tell your doctor promptly about these or any other unusual effects.

- PROPECIA can affect a blood test called PSA (Prostate-Specific Antigen) for the screening of prostate cancer. If you have a PSA test done, you should tell your doctor that you are taking PROPECIA.

Storage and handling.

Keep PROPECIA in the original container and keep the container closed. Store it in a dry place at room temperature. PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling, provided that the tablets are not broken or crushed.

Do not give your PROPECIA tablets to anyone else. It has been prescribed only for you. Keep PROPECIA and all medications out of the reach of children.

THIS LEAFLET PROVIDES A SUMMARY OF INFORMATION ABOUT PROPECIA. IF AFTER READING THIS LEAFLET YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR ARE NOT SURE ABOUT ANYTHING, ASK YOUR DOCTOR.

1-800-430-7375, Monday through Friday, 8:30 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M. (ET).

Propecia™ (Finasteride) Tablets

December PolitiCalendar

Meetings of interest to the community throughout December, listed in order of each group's first event this month:

SF Health Commission
December 1, 15; 3 p.m.
SF Department of Public Health
101 Grove Street, Room 300
(Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesday)
Info: (415) 554-2666

ACT UP/Golden Gate
Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; 7:30 p.m.
592 Castro Street
(Meets every Tuesday)
Info: (415) 252-9200

SF Youth Commission
December 3, 17; 5-7 p.m.
City Hall, Room 207
401 Van Ness Avenue
(Meets 1st and 3rd Thursday)
Info: (415) 554-6446

Board of Supervisors
December 7, 14, 21; 2 p.m.
City Hall, 4th floor
401 Van Ness Avenue
For committee meetings call
(415) 554-5184

Oakland HIV Health Services Planning Council
(Alameda, Contra Costa counties)
December 9; 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

(Meets 2nd Wednesday)
Council's PWA Committee
Dec. 11; 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
(Meets 2nd Friday)
Location/info: (510) 763-9711

HIV Prevention Planning Council
December 10, 17; 3-6 p.m.
Unitarian Church,
1187 Franklin at Geary
For committee meetings,
call (415) 554-9000

Queer Latino Political Action Committee (QL PAC)
December 10; 6:30 p.m.
Women's Building
3543 18th Street
(Meets 2nd Thursday)
Info: (415) 648-3702

Ambiente Latino Democratic Club
December 12; 4 p.m.
(Meets 2nd Saturday)
Location/info: (415) 239-2221

Out on the Island
December 14; 7 p.m.
City of Alameda's gay community action group
(Meets 2nd Monday)
Location/info: (510) 337-1300

LGBT Advisory Committee
SF Human Rights Commission
December 15; 5:30 p.m.

25 Van Ness Avenue
(Meets 3rd Tuesday)
Info: (415) 252-2500

LGBT Community Center Project Board
December 16; 7 p.m.
1748 Market Street
(Meets 3rd Wednesday)
Info: (415) 437-2257

Lesbians and Gays of African Descent for Democratic Action (LGADDA)
December 17; 7 p.m.
507-B Divisadero
(Meets 3rd Thursday)

Call for information about these meetings:

Harvey Milk Democratic Club
Info: (415) 751-5364

HIV Health Services Planning Council
25 Van Ness, Room 330-A
Council, committee meetings/info:
(415) 554-9136

L/G/B/T Pride Celebration Committee
Info: (415) 864-3733

Log Cabin Republican Club
Info: (415) 522-2944

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Plenty of events this World AIDS Day

by Cynthia Laird

This Tuesday, December 1, will mark the 11th annual observance of World AIDS Day, and as in previous years, many activities are planned in San Francisco and Oakland. There's also the launch of a new website.

World AIDS Day is the one day each year that the world sets aside to honor all the people whose lives have been touched by AIDS. It is a day of reflection and appreciation of those who have died, those who are fighting to survive, the caregivers, and those who are finding new treatments and cures. World AIDS Day is also an opportunity for those who grieve with loss to find hope, remembrance, and renewal.

AEF penny drive

As it has for the past five years, the AIDS Emergency Fund's "Every Penny Counts" campaign caps off a month of intensive fundraising when the pennies will be dropped off to AEF staff and volunteers on World AIDS Day at an event in Union Square that runs from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. While penny jars are at businesses throughout the year, AEF upped the visibility of the drive this month, getting lots of school children and businesses in on the effort as they have in previous years.

"Every Penny Counts" started at the Gate restaurant in 1987. Patron David Slocombe and the late bartender Fred Skau decided to collect coins for AEF in a washed-out olive jar on the bar. It has since become the signature fundraising project of the organization, which provides emergency financial assistance to people living with HIV and AIDS in San Francisco and several Bay Area counties. The penny project raised \$161,000 in 1997 and more than \$1.16 million since its inception.

Last year AEF distributed over \$1.6 million in grants. The agency has only a few paid staff members, and no executive director, resulting in very low administrative overhead costs. With new medical advances, people living with AIDS (PWA) are living longer, and are often in need of financial assistance. Many of these people have difficulty paying for basic living expenses such as rent, utility bills, or special medical treatment not covered by other groups.

The premise of the penny campaign is simple: most people don't want their pennies but feel it's wrong to throw money in the trash. The coin collection jars,



This was the touching scene in July at the National AIDS Memorial Grove, at a memorial for Stephen Daniel. The grove is holding one of many local World AIDS Day events this Tuesday, December 1.

which are now at countless businesses in the city and elsewhere, are an easy way for people to contribute. "I think it's great that you do this," is a common refrain AEF hears from supporters.

For more information, call the pennies project coordinator at (415) 558-6985.

AIDS grove celebration

Perhaps no other place pays tribute to those who have died of HIV or complications from AIDS more, or more effectively, than the National AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park. The grove is the first major living memorial dedicated to those whose lives have been touched by AIDS. On World AIDS Day, the National AIDS Memorial Grove will recognize its first-ever award recipient, Irene Smith, at a ceremony led by Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, San Francisco Symphony conductor Michael Tilson Thomas, actress Judith Light, and author Armistead Maupin from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Interested members of the community are welcome to attend, organizers said.

"The grove will hold this special event to honor all people whose lives have been touched by AIDS," said Thom Weyand, executive director.

Weyand will be participating in the ceremony, along with Dr. Tom Coates, director of the AIDS Research Institute (ARI) at the University of California, San

Francisco (UCSF), and the Glide Memorial Church Choir.

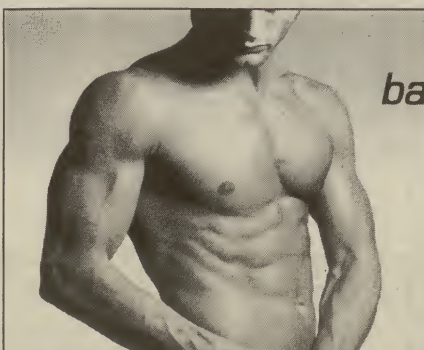
Conceived in 1989, the grove was designed to help people touched by AIDS find solace, solidarity, and hope. The grove is a wooded basin historically known as de Laveaga Dell and is tended to by volunteers who take part in monthly workdays held throughout the year.

The grove's decision to honor someone came about because the organization wanted to recognize a person who has been a hero in caring for PWAs. "Over the last 16 years, many worthy people in the Bay Area have been recognized for their work for those afflicted with AIDS," Weyand said. "The National AIDS Memorial Grove wanted to identify a person who has been a valued community hero in the caring of those with AIDS."

Smith has been a massage volunteer for PWAs since 1982. She has been tireless in providing touch to those often shunned by friends and family from the fear of the disease. "I was lucky to pioneer this work before I was taught fear," said Smith.

She began volunteering at the San Francisco Hospice in 1982 and soon started helping at San Francisco General Hospital's AIDS Unit. In 1984 the hospice asked her to train a team of massage volunteers for PWAs. Due to the demand, the Service Through

page 27 ►

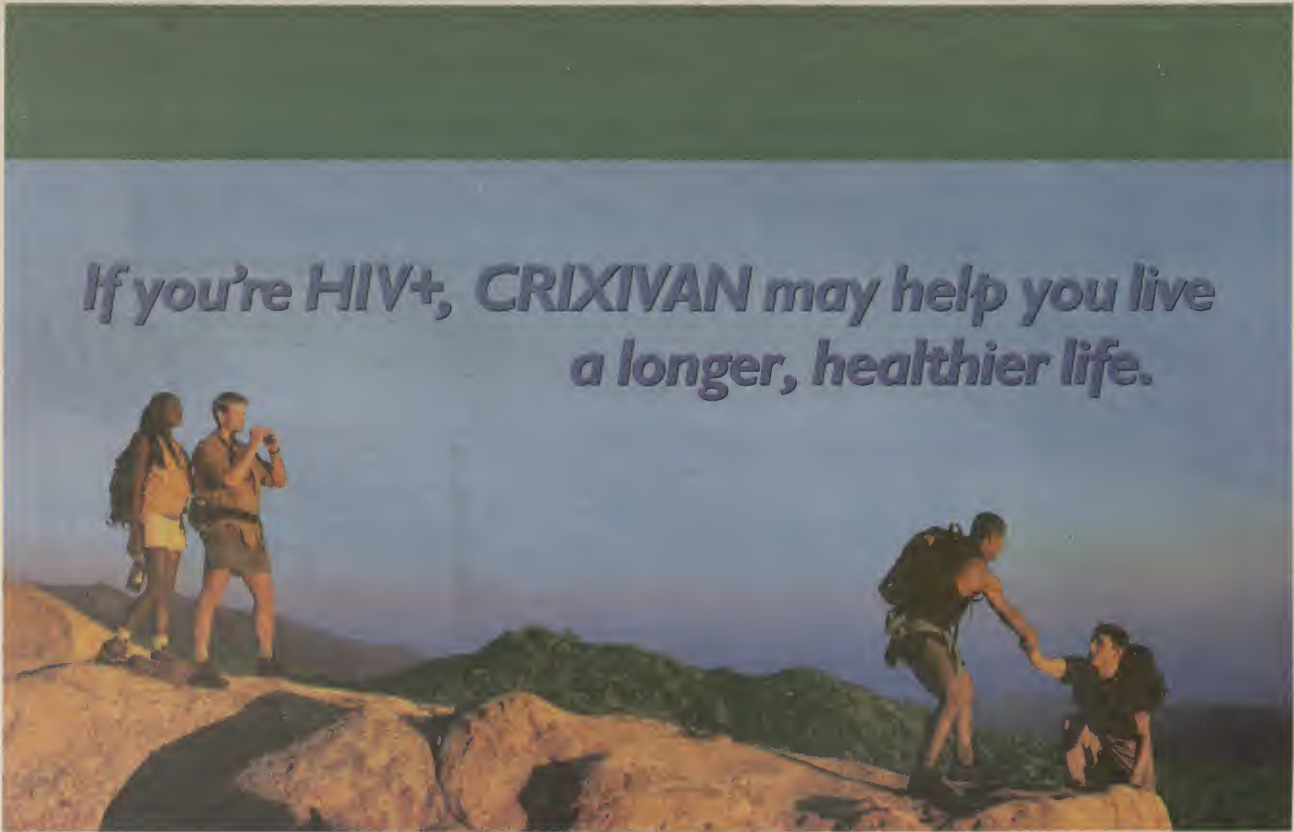


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■ **New NIH research showed people taking CRIXIVAN in triple therapy lived longer and experienced fewer opportunistic infections.**

- Recent year-long research conducted by the National Institutes of Health (Protocol ACTG 320) studied over 1,000 patients and confirmed results from another study.
- The group of patients receiving CRIXIVAN along with 3TC and AZT achieved a reduction in deaths and AIDS-defining illnesses over those taking 3TC and AZT alone. This reduction was significant enough for the NIH to recommend the study be stopped, so that all participants could benefit from the findings. Because the study was ended early, there was insufficient data to determine the statistical impact of CRIXIVAN on survival.

■ **CRIXIVAN in triple therapy continues to hold serum viral load down below the limit of detection at the one year mark.**

- In a separate, ongoing landmark study, over 90% of the 31 patients receiving CRIXIVAN, AZT, and 3TC reduced their HIV serum viral load below the limit of detection after 24 weeks (as measured by available tests; the virus may still be present in other organ systems).
- Importantly, the limited number of patients who chose to stay with the study for longer periods of time maintained these results through the one year mark.

■ **CRIXIVAN is generally well tolerated.**

- CRIXIVAN can be taken with a light meal or on an empty stomach. There are side effects associated with protease inhibitors in general and CRIXIVAN in particular. Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN may develop kidney stones. For some, this can lead to more severe kidney problems including kidney failure. Drinking at least 6 glasses of water each day may help reduce the chance of forming a kidney stone. Other side effects reported include rapid breakdown of red blood cells and liver problems. There are some common medications and AIDS-related medications you should not take with CRIXIVAN. Discuss all medications you are taking or plan to take with your doctor.
- As with other protease inhibitors, increased bleeding in some patients with hemophilia and increased blood sugar levels or diabetes have been reported. Please read the following page for detailed information on side effects and dosing.

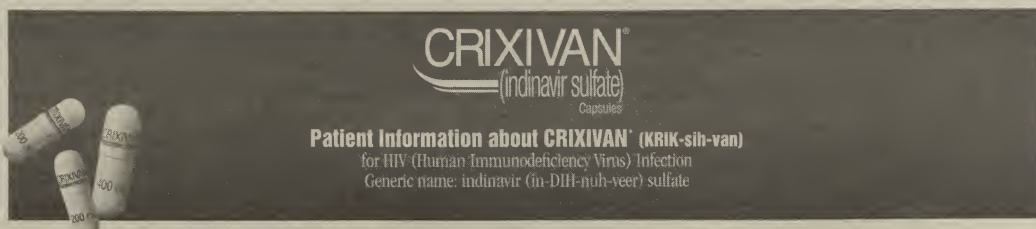
Please read the following page for more detailed information about CRIXIVAN.

**Remember to
ask your doctor
about CRIXIVAN.**

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(indinavir sulfate)
Capsules

Going the distance.

CRIXIVAN is a protease inhibitor that fights HIV. CRIXIVAN can help reduce the chance of illnesses and death associated with HIV. CRIXIVAN can also help lower the amount of HIV in your body (called "viral load") and raise your CD4 T-cell count. Some patients may not experience these effects. CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS.



CRIXIVAN®
(indinavir sulfate)
Capsules

Patient Information about CRIXIVAN® (KRIK-sih-van)
for HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) Infection
Generic name: indinavir (in-DIH-nuh-veer) sulfate

Please read this information before you start taking CRIXIVAN. Also, you should read the information included with CRIXIVAN each time you receive your prescription, just in case anything has changed. Remember, this information does not take the place of careful discussions with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss CRIXIVAN when you start taking your medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when using CRIXIVAN and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

What is CRIXIVAN?

CRIXIVAN is an oral capsule used for the treatment of HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus). HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). CRIXIVAN is a type of HIV drug called a protease (PRO-tee-ase) inhibitor.

How does CRIXIVAN work?

CRIXIVAN is a protease inhibitor that fights HIV. CRIXIVAN can help reduce your chances of getting illnesses associated with HIV. CRIXIVAN can also help lower the amount of HIV in your body (called "viral load") and raise your CD4 (T) cell count. CRIXIVAN may not have these effects in all patients.

CRIXIVAN is usually prescribed with other anti-HIV drugs such as ZDV (also called AZT), 3TC, ddI, ddC, or d4T. CRIXIVAN works differently from these other anti-HIV drugs. Talk with your doctor about how you should take CRIXIVAN.

CRIXIVAN has been studied in adults. The safety and effectiveness of CRIXIVAN in children and adolescents have not been established.

How should I take CRIXIVAN?

There are six important things you must do to help you benefit from CRIXIVAN:

1. **Take CRIXIVAN capsules every day as prescribed by your doctor.** Continue taking CRIXIVAN unless your doctor tells you to stop. Take the exact amount of CRIXIVAN that your doctor tells you to take, right from the very start. To help make sure you will benefit from CRIXIVAN, you must not skip doses or take "drug holidays." If you don't take CRIXIVAN as prescribed, the activity of CRIXIVAN may be reduced (due to resistance).
2. **Take CRIXIVAN capsules every 8 hours around the clock, every day.** It may be easier to remember to take CRIXIVAN if you take it at the same time every day. If you have questions about when to take CRIXIVAN, your doctor or health care provider can help you decide what schedule works for you.
3. **If you miss a dose by more than 2 hours, wait and then take the next dose at the regularly scheduled time.** However, if you miss a dose by less than 2 hours, take your missed dose immediately. Then take your next dose at the regularly scheduled time. Do not take more or less than your prescribed dose of CRIXIVAN at any one time.
4. **Take CRIXIVAN with water.** You can also take CRIXIVAN with other beverages such as skim or non-fat milk, juice, coffee, or tea.
5. **Ideally, take each dose of CRIXIVAN without food but with water at least one hour before or two hours after a meal.** Or you can take CRIXIVAN with a light meal. Examples of light meals include:
 - dry toast with jelly, juice, and coffee (with skim or non-fat milk and sugar if you want)
 - corn flakes with skim or non-fat milk and sugar
 Do not take CRIXIVAN at the same time as any meals that are high in calories, fat, and protein (for example — a bacon and egg breakfast). When taken at the same time as CRIXIVAN, these foods can interfere with CRIXIVAN being absorbed into your bloodstream and may lessen its effect.
6. **It is critical that you drink at least six 8-ounce glasses of liquid (preferably water) throughout the day, every day.** CRIXIVAN can cause kidney stones. Having enough fluids in your body should help reduce the chances of forming a kidney stone. Call your doctor or other health care provider if you develop kidney pains (middle to lower stomach or back pain) or blood in the urine.

Does CRIXIVAN cure HIV or AIDS?

CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS. People taking CRIXIVAN may still develop infections or other conditions associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important for you to remain under the care of a doctor. Although CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS, CRIXIVAN can help reduce your chances of getting illnesses, including death, associated with HIV. CRIXIVAN may not have these effects in all patients.

Does CRIXIVAN reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

CRIXIVAN has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Who should not take CRIXIVAN?

Do not take CRIXIVAN if you have had a serious allergic reaction to CRIXIVAN or any of its components.

What other medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my doctor?

Talk to your doctor if:

- You are pregnant or if you become pregnant while you are taking CRIXIVAN. We do not yet know how CRIXIVAN affects pregnant women or their developing babies.
 - You are breast-feeding. You should stop breast-feeding if you are taking CRIXIVAN.
- Also talk to your doctor if you have:

- Problems with your liver, especially if you have mild or moderate liver disease caused by cirrhosis.
- Problems with your kidneys.
- Diabetes
- Hemophilia

Tell your doctor about any medicines you are taking or plan to take, including non-prescription medicines.

Can CRIXIVAN be taken with other medications?*

Drugs you should not take with CRIXIVAN:

SELDANE® (terfenadine) HISMALAN® (astemizole)
VERSED® (midazolam) HALCION® (triazolam)
PROPULSID® (cisapride) Ergot medications (e.g., Wigraine® and Cafergot®)

Taking CRIXIVAN with the above medications could result in serious or life-threatening problems (such as irregular heartbeat or excessive sleepiness).

In addition, you should not take CRIXIVAN with rifampin, known as RIFADIN®, RIFAMATE®, RIFATER®, or RIMACTANE®.

Drugs you can take with CRIXIVAN include:

RETROVIR® (zidovudine, ZDV also called AZT) BIAVIN® (clarithromycin)
TAGAMET® (cimetidine) isoniazid (INH)
DIFLUCAN® (fluconazole) ORTHO-NOVUM 1/35® (oral contraceptive)
ZERIT® (stavudine, d4T)

EPIVIR™ (lamivudine, 3TC)

BACTRIM®/SEPTA® (trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole)

VIDEX® (didanosine, ddI) — If you take CRIXIVAN with VIDEX®, take them at least one hour apart.

MYCOBUTIN® (rifabutin) — If you take CRIXIVAN with MYCOBUTIN®, your doctor may adjust both the dose of MYCOBUTIN and the dose of CRIXIVAN.

NIZORAL® (ketoconazole) — If you take CRIXIVAN with NIZORAL®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.

Talk to your doctor about any medications you are taking.

What are the possible side effects of CRIXIVAN?

Like all prescription drugs, CRIXIVAN can cause side effects. The following is not a complete list of side effects reported with CRIXIVAN when taken either alone or with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this page alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss with you a more complete list of side effects.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN developed kidney stones. In some of these patients this led to more severe kidney problems, including kidney failure or inflammation of the kidneys. Drinking at least six 8-ounce glasses of liquid (preferably water) each day should help reduce the chances of forming a kidney stone. Call your doctor or other health care provider if you develop kidney pains (middle to lower stomach or back pain) or blood in the urine.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN have had rapid breakdown of red blood cells (hemolytic anemia) which in some cases was severe or resulted in death.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN have had liver problems including liver failure and death. Some patients had other illnesses or were taking other drugs. It is uncertain if CRIXIVAN caused these liver problems.

Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) have occurred in patients taking protease inhibitors. In some of these patients, this led to ketoacidosis, a serious condition caused by poorly controlled blood sugar. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients required adjustments to their diabetes medication. Others needed new diabetes medication.

In some patients with hemophilia, increased bleeding has been reported.

Clinical Studies

Increases in bilirubin (one laboratory test of liver function) have been reported in approximately 10% of patients. Usually, this finding has not been associated with liver problems. However, on rare occasions, a person may develop yellowing of the skin and/or eyes.

Side effects occurring in 2% or more of patients included: abdominal pain, fatigue or weakness, flank pain, feeling unwell, nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, acid regurgitation, loss of appetite, dry mouth, back pain, headache, trouble sleeping, dizziness, taste changes, rash, upper respiratory infection, dry skin, and sore throat.

Swollen kidneys due to blocked urine flow occurred rarely.

Marketing Experience

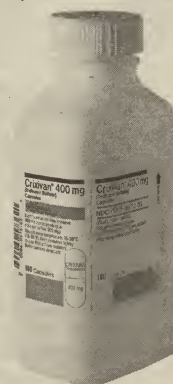
Other side effects reported since CRIXIVAN has been marketed include: abdominal swelling; inflammation of the kidneys; increased fat appearing in areas such as the neck, abdomen, and back; change in skin color; severe skin reactions; hair loss; crystals in the urine; and allergic reactions.

Tell your doctor promptly about these or any other unusual symptoms. If the condition persists or worsens, seek medical attention.

How should I store CRIXIVAN capsules?

- Keep CRIXIVAN capsules in the bottle they came in and at room temperature (59°F-86°F).

- Keep CRIXIVAN capsules dry by leaving the small desiccant "pillow" in the bottle. Keep the bottle closed.



CRIXIVAN®
(indinavir sulfate)
Capsules

This medication is prescribed for a particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep CRIXIVAN and all medicines out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

This provides a summary of information about CRIXIVAN. If you have any questions or concerns about either CRIXIVAN or HIV, talk to your doctor.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

ALRP marks 15 years

by Cynthia Laird

Emphasizing the legal community's noblest instincts of volunteerism and public service, the AIDS Legal Referral Panel (ALRP) marked 15 years of legal service to the HIV community at a reception Wednesday, November 18. The event honored Bay Area lawyers and legal professionals — over 1,200 of them — who have given their time and expertise to protect the rights of people living with HIV and AIDS.

The nation's oldest organization dedicated to meeting the civil legal needs of people with HIV/AIDS, ALRP began in 1983 when a handful of lawyers saw their friends become sick with a mysterious and fatal illness. Those lawyers established a list of volunteers who would visit people with AIDS at home and in hospitals to write wills and medical powers of attorney to help protect their rights.

Since then, ALRP has assisted clients in over 30,000 legal matters, said Irwin Keller, executive director.

"People with HIV and AIDS today face new legal challenges. As people with HIV live longer lives, they are likely to encounter more legal problems," said attorney Sarah Thomas, ALRP's client services director. According to Thomas, the promise of new HIV therapies has caused many ALRP clients to think about entering or returning to the work force. Those considerations often involve sticky legal questions in order to take medications on time with the proper food, and how to respond to harassment or discrimination in the workplace.

Another dramatic shift in the legal needs of people with HIV or AIDS has been in the area of housing. ALRP has experienced a tremendous upsurge in the number of people with HIV or AIDS who need help responding to a residential eviction. This year, nearly one-quarter of all ALRP



Supervisor Tom Ammiano delivers a proclamation to ALRP Board Chair Diane Cash (center) and Executive Director Irwin Keller (R).

clients are calling for help with a housing matter.

"Our clients are overwhelmingly poor," Keller said. "They have been impoverished by AIDS and disability. They are often longtime tenants paying low rents. In San Francisco, a city with less than one percent vacancy, that makes them prime targets for eviction."

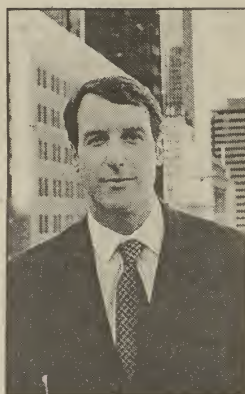
Responding to the crisis, ALRP launched its AIDS Housing Advocacy Project during this anniversary year. In addition to offering help through volunteer attorneys, ALRP staff will provide direct representation in eviction and housing discrimination cases. According to Peter Kearns, ALRP's housing attorney, "Stable housing is essential for people to be able to manage a complex HIV treatment regimen. If evicted, our clients may end up homeless and unable to adhere to their HIV treatments. For these clients, maintaining shelter is quite literally a matter of life and death."

ALRP helps clients in a broad array of complex legal matters. The agency continues to assist New Zealand native Christopher Arnesen in his fight to obtain disability benefits earned after nearly 30 years of working and paying taxes in San Francisco. "Chris is caught in a bureaucratic Catch-22," said Betsy Johnsen, ALRP's benefits attorney. "He was told to

leave the U.S. in order to apply for Social Security benefits, then he was told he needed to return to the U.S. in order to collect those benefits, but the INS [Immigration and Naturalization Service] barred him from returning because of his HIV status." ALRP assembled a team of volunteer lawyers to work on his case, which is still pending. According to Johnsen, "The case will set an important precedent, hopefully a positive one."

Arnesen, a renowned travel photographer, had some of his images of Papua New Guinea on exhibit at the recent ALRP reception and they were part of a silent and called auction to raise funds for the agency. ▼

For more information on ALRP's services, call (415) 291-5454.

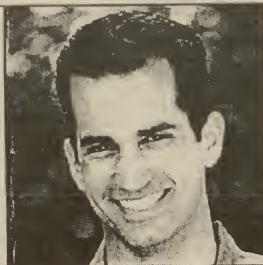


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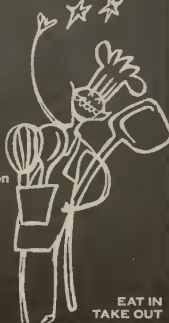
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**NOW
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Who he's become

◀ page 1

pite his east coast roots — so whatever political milestones Milk would have achieved here could have been, and I suspect would have been, contained by the simple disclaimer, "That's San Francisco, whaddya expect." From the city famed as the epicenter of fruits and nuts, the election of a man like Milk was not terribly big news, at least nationally; it had no substantial political fallout nor was it deemed predictive of a new wave of national queer political power. Milk remained a small scale local politician, and his presence on the Board of Supervisors was understood as more a statement about this town than about a developing queer political movement. It was his assassination that gave him the national platform he previously lacked — and the White Night riots that consolidated his beatification.

Martyrdom is powerful precisely because it gives abstractions like justice or freedom material human form. Dead, Milk embodied so many more such abstractions than the living politician

could ever possibly contain. This is what we mean when we say that someone is larger than life, and the weird paradox is that Harvey Milk became larger than life only when he was no longer in it. Fortunately for his martyrdom, Milk died sufficiently early in office to provide few historical counter-examples to our hagiographic constructions of him. We wanted and needed a leader who was a political genius, who was all untrammelled promise, a visionary who would go on to major state and then national office, and would unite us and represent our face to the world. He had to be bigger than us, yet warm, good humored and familiar, and if his eminently quotable prognostications proved eerily on target and gave form to our future, well it didn't hurt to have a touch of the divine about him.

In death, Milk offered all these things and more. (I find that I even have trouble writing "Milk." I want to call him by the familiar Harvey, though I never knew him. It just feels right.) The fact that politics is compromise, that Harvey was a white male in an era of increasing separatist commitments, that, given the forces ar-



At the Commemorative Shabbat Service held at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav on Nov. 20, Rabbi Jane Rachel Litman, singer Jonathan Funk and others remembered Harvey Milk 20 years after his death.

rayed against him, his longterm political success on issues other than dog poop would probably have been limited—all of that didn't matter after the murder. What did matter was that he became a King or a Kennedy for a political movement in need of such an ethical touchstone, and that he was well extraordinarily suited to such demands.

Queers as a constituency

A few days after the White Night riots, strolling through my rapidly gentrifying Washington, DC neighborhood, I saw splashed in angry red paint on a polished

white marble retaining wall, "Harvey Milk Lives/Dan White will Die." I was a first year college student, deeply closeted and scared of my own shadow. That graffiti spurred my first political awakening, engendering a painful lurch into activism after a childhood of suburban ease. How could I remain in the closet, I thought, and turn my back on Harvey Milk's extraordinary sacrifice? Harvey's killing shamed me, and I would imagine many others, into coming out. Within weeks, its emotive power began to be registered across the land. Indeed, I first heard it a continent apart from the city that first gave him voice.

But an international movement's gain proved an immense local loss. The assassinations of Milk and Moscone gutted the progressive movement in San Francisco, a catastrophe that allowed Feinstein to become mayor, and rent hard won political alliances. City Hall returned to a politics of containment and despite the best efforts of successor Harry Britt, the vision Milk set in

motion would no longer find an enthusiastic echo among the City's establishment. Old San Francisco drew succor from the defeat, and sought to reassert its primacy. The shocking mayoral victory of Frank Jordan but a few years ago is testament to the permanence and depth of these scars.

Yet, as we look back over the intervening twenty years, it's clear that gains far outnumber losses. Old San Francisco, the city of traditional blue collar families and big business, learned that if they wanted to continue their political influence they had to broker peace with queers. As a result, politics in San Francisco changed irrevocably, and for the first time in American political history, queers became a demographic group. Milk had turned an identity into a political constituency — no easy feat, as the current inability of other communities in town to replicate queer electoral success has demonstrated. What made this community political power all the more remarkable is that for

next page ▶

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HARVEY MILK

Who he's become

◀ previous page

queers communal affiliation comes relatively late in life; few of us have rose-tinged, nostalgic childhood memories of our queer families. In the post-Milk San Francisco, we moved in, came out and registered up. Doubtless, the so-called "Lavender Sweep" of queers into elected office is a direct result of these changes.

Moreover, a conservative homophobic faction in San Francisco politics, forever tainted by its association with murder, had no choice but to moot its rhetoric. Now, generally speaking, we have to import our homophobes from out of town. Harvey's murder gave queer bashing a beloved human face. In the aftermath of the White Night riots, now it was the police who positioned themselves as the guardians of old San Francisco, not the politicians. Of course, as the queers and the cops increasingly squared off, politicians were able to effect a containment of our influence and yet stay above the fray. But the echo of the White Night riots — referenced by ACT UP, Queer Nation, even the protests after Wilson vetoed AB101 — is that in San Francisco, civil disobedience can yield social change. The implicit threat of a riot every time we take to the streets has tended to amplify our voice and give teeth to our demands.

Namesakes

Perhaps the most telling legacy of Harvey Milk is the explosion of cultural initiatives set up in his name. There is an elementary school named after him in the Castro, a Democratic Club, a City Parks and Recreation Center, and now a community based queer studies education facility, the Harvey Milk Institute. I'm moved by the sweep and scope of these tributes, touching on kids, politics, quality of life, and education — all issues Harvey himself held dear. But the real measure of these tributes is that they all imply a vision of a San Francisco in which queer presence is woven throughout the life of this city. Following Harvey's murder, queerness could finally break through. We were, of course, always there, but now we could be named, and our name became Harvey Milk.

Nationally, the murders ushered queers into the select club of victims of political assassination. It was a paradoxical tribute to our rising power and influence, and Milk gave us the moral authority to speak with the same visceral emotional and rhetorical force as others engaged in the battle for civil rights. We always said ours was a civil rights struggle; now we could prove it. We had our own King.

Since Harvey died what was simply a neighborhood has become a symbol — one that is at once local, national and international. Castro and Market is mecca, epicenter of a now global community. For those of us who live here, queer community is written into daily life — in markets and cafes, hospitals and hospices, lobbying groups and law firms, in the speeches of elected and appointed politicians, in the services of religious institutions and anti-religious institutions, and the countless other organizations all serving our needs. But for the world at large, the very ordinariness of our lives is the stuff of dreams. In a relatively small city on the edge of a vast ocean, a once fatal struggle to win civil rights has turned into a comfortable place to live an ordinary life. That's no small achievement. ▼

Who he was

◀ page 1

dinner November 26, the night before he died. My longtime friend and roommate Mick Ridolfi wondered when Harvey had last enjoyed a home-cooked meal, and suggested we invite him over for dinner. Harvey's last dinner consisted of a huge steak, and we even convinced him to enjoy a bit of wine in a birthday toast.

Milk, never having much money, was concerned that he hadn't brought a gift, and asked "What can I give you for your birthday, Wayne?" Knowing that supervisors were given free tickets to all 49er's home games, I said I'd love his tickets to the Steelers-Niners game that was to be played the next night.

Harvey said, "You got 'em." (Had they been ballet or opera tickets, incidentally, he wouldn't have been as eager to give them up, but he could have cared less about seeing a pro football game.)

As Harvey left my house later that evening, the last time I ever saw him, he invited me to City Hall the next morning to attend the noon swearing-in ceremony

of Don Horanzy. Horanzy was the man that Mayor Moscone had picked to replace Supervisor Dan White, who had quit.

The news arrives

While taking a shower before heading to City Hall the morning of November 27, I received a phone call from Richard (Sweetlips) Walters, telling me he had just heard on the radio that the mayor had been shot; five minutes later, then-supervisor Carol Ruth Silver called.

I remember her exact words: "Wayne, please sit down before I tell you this. Harvey is gone, Dan White just shot him to death."

Harvey had lived on Henry Street, only a few blocks from my home. I immediately took the set of keys I had to his apartment, went to his home, woke his roommate at the time to tell him what happened, and spent the rest of the day helping to keep the media and the curious from his apartment, and welcoming those close to him who had no place else to go, but who wanted to be there where Harvey lived.

Within three hours of Harvey's death, the steps to his apartment were covered with

flowers, burning candles, and notes of sorrow. The rest, obviously, is now history.

A lot of people knew Harvey Milk; some were closer to him both personally and politically than was I, but we spent countless nights talking, thinking, planning — yes, even plotting — what Harvey felt was the future of the gay rights movement. Milk not only cared about gays and lesbians and those now-famous young gay teenagers he spoke of in the unfriendly small towns of the middle west, but he was, first and always, a coalition builder. He knew well that gays and lesbians couldn't gain their rightful place alone, without the help and support of other minorities.

Do I miss the guy? Certainly. Even after 20 years, I still think of those late-night phone calls when Milk would come up with a brainstorm idea that couldn't wait until morning; the many nights when he would come by the N'Touch, a Polk Street bar where I worked during those days, and wait for me to get off work so that we could go to the Grubstake, a popular after-hours restaurant on Pine Street where gays would go for breakfast after the bars closed. Harvey

often held court there, talking about politics and the gay rights movement, sometimes until daylight. Always the center of attention, usually controlling the topic of conversation, the guy could draw people to him like moths to a light bulb.

Harvey was stubborn to a fault, self-centered, and even rude at times, but always with the vision of what he thought was best for the gay rights movement — and, he was usually right.

I honestly haven't seen the likes of the guy since, and while I know it sounds like an over-used cliché, there isn't likely to be another Harvey for a hell of a long time.

There are so many truly interesting Milk stories, but there isn't time or space to share them. Incidentally, a couple of weeks after Harvey was killed, and the furor over his murder had subsided somewhat, I received a phone call from Milk's City Hall aide, Dick Pabich, telling me he had found an envelope on Harvey's cluttered desk with two 49er tickets in it for the night of November 27 with my name on the outside of the envelope; needless to say, I still have them. ▼

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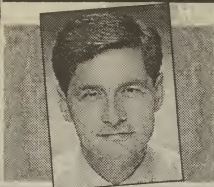


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SF gay center hires Walton as project mgr.

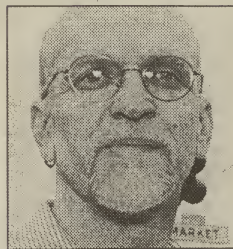
by Cynthia Laird

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) Community Center Project announced Monday, November 16, that Scott Walton has been hired as the project manager. Walton, formerly with Digital Queers, is responsible for helping the project's board of directors to complete fundraising to build the center at 1800 Market Street.

Walton, who'll start his new job December 1, was hired at an annual salary of \$50,000, said Dana Van Gorder, CCP board member.

"We are thrilled to hire someone of Scott's dedication and skill to help us in this major endeavor," said Brenda Barnette, CCP board president. "Scott's background is perfectly suited to us. He has worked as an executive director of a community center, and has enormous passion for the role centers play in the lives of LGBT people. Scott has great skill in planning and carrying out major fundraising plans. And he has great skills in working with start-up organizations like the center."

The cost of building the 41,000 square-foot center is set at \$10.75 million, including the cost of land, design, and construction. The CCP board has raised \$8 million toward the total cost, including several million dollars in city funds. The CCP is in the midst of



Scott Walton

its \$3.5 million capital campaign.

Walton told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the biggest part of his job will be to help complete fundraising for the center. "There will be some community outreach and program development work too," said Walton. He added that once the capital campaign is completed, he'll move on to other fundraising projects to furnish the center and maintain operating costs. Groundbreaking is slated for September 1999 with the center scheduled to open in late 2001.

"The sum we are raising is larger than has ever been raised for a capital campaign in San Francisco's LGBT community," said Barnette. "We are confident it can be raised, but we need participation from the entire community."

Walton said the CCP board's decision to hire a project manager is simply a natural progression

for the project, and while fundraising efforts haven't stalled, he will be looking for major donors and contributions from people who have not yet pledged financial support for the center.

Prior to the job at Digital Queers, Walton was director of development for the Horizons Foundation and he used to be executive director at the Pacific Center in Berkeley. Before moving to the Bay Area, Walton ran an AIDS service organization in Michigan. He's been a volunteer for the community center for the last six months or so, he added.

"I'm very excited about the project itself," Walton said, adding he feels the city lacks "sort of a boiling pot" he hopes the community center will become; a place where services interact and new services can begin.

Added Barnette, "When it is completed in the winter of 2001, the center will house activities and services that welcome every member of our community. And so, we are hopeful that as many people as possible will make a contribution of any amount they can afford to make this important new resource a reality." ▼

The CCP can be contacted at (415) 437-2257, or check out their website at www.sfgaycenter.org. The office is located at 1748 Market St., 2nd floor, SF CA 94102.

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Nobody's helping fight AIDS in Napa, Solano – and that's good! Vallejo benefit Sunday for Rainbow Fund

by Mark Norby

The Rainbow Fund will host its eighth annual Charity Auction from 1 to 4 p.m. this Sunday, November 29 at Nobody's Place in downtown Vallejo. The Rainbow Fund is an all-volunteer organization that donates 100 percent of all money they raise to charities working in the field of HIV/AIDS in Solano

and Napa counties.

Nobody's Place, an "international bar where everyone is someone," as the bar proudly celebrates itself, is the place where the Rainbow Fund emerged.

"Our customers are diverse and established the Rainbow Fund as a way of supporting important charities in our community while having fun and a good time," says Nobody's Place owner Ray Snyder.

"The weekly Sunday football lunch parties are an important fund-raiser as well, providing camaraderie and good food for four bucks," continues Snyder, "the whole amount goes to the Rainbow Fund."

Past recipients of funds have included Planned Parenthood, the Napa AIDS Project, Meals on Wheels, Solano AIDSWALK '98, to name just a few.

The auction items this year will include Napa wines donated by Edgewood Estate, Sutter

Home, Prager Port Cellars, Montevina, and other fine vineyards, as well as a vintage jukebox. The Rainbow Fund would like to encourage other business and community members to donate new and first-class used items for the auction. Those interested should call (707) 645-7298.

In eight years the volunteer group has raised more than \$70,000 for local HIV/AIDS groups. The wider Bay Area community and all visitors to the area are cordially invited to attend and participate in Sunday's event. Organizers will see to it that Nobody's Place becomes everybody's place, and the Rainbow Fund will be the backdrop of essential communal charity. ▼

Nobody's Place is located at 437 Virginia Street in downtown Vallejo. For more information, call (707) 645-7298.



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AIDS docs ready next step

by Ed Susman, UPI

Progress in ridding the AIDS virus from the blood has led top U.S. researchers to propose the first study that would halt drug treatment in HIV-infected patients with undetectable virus levels. The proposal follows new studies announced Sunday, November 15, showing aggressive drug therapy eliminated HIV from the blood of three infected patients. At the Infectious Diseases Society of America meeting in Denver, Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said that the immune enhancer Interleukin-2 (IL-2) was added for several weeks to a combination of drugs including protease inhibitors.

Fauci said the therapy did not work consistently in the 14 men who received active treatment. In six of the men, however, no HIV could be detected in up to 20 million copies of immune system cells. In three of the six, no HIV was found in 300 million immune cells. In one patient, HIV traces could not be detected in a biopsy of his lymph node tissue, either. In 12 other HIV-infected men who did not receive IL-2, HIV-infected immune system cells were detected at the end of the study.

Based on that success, researchers have designed the unique study. Fauci told UPI, "We have written a protocol in which patients who have no sign of virus in the blood would have their medication withdrawn to see if the virus will continue to be suppressed." Still, he said, "I personally believe the virus will come back."

Despite the risks, Fauci said patients are willing to stop taking medication and test the theory that eradicating HIV virus from the blood is sufficient to prevent re-emergence of the infection. Although the regimen has been successful in driving down the levels of virus in the blood, there are serious side effects associated with the treatments, including diabetes, kidney stones and development of unsightly fat deposits on the back, shoulder and abdomen.

Other attempts to eliminate HIV are underway around the world, some using the anti-cancer drug hydroxyurea along with protease inhibitors to try to get at the latent AIDS virus in the body. ▼

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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



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Director, National Institutes of Health, Office of AIDS Research
Why is an AIDS Vaccine So Hard to Develop?

Featured Presentation by Lawrence Altman, MD
Medical Correspondent, The New York Times
Who Goes First? Perspectives on the Challenges of AIDS Vaccine Testing



Panel Presentation
Moderated by Jay A. Levy, MD
The Current State of the Vaccine

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Special thanks to **GlaxoWellcome**
for sponsoring the symposium

Viral load ups and downs

by Bill Snow, ACT UP/
Golden Gate Writers Pool

It may seem like forever, but we have only had quantitative HIV viral load measurements widely available for about three years. In that time, viral load has matched (if not supplanted) T-cells as the most important marker for clinical trials, drug approval, prognosis, and treatment decision-making. Three generations of the viral load tests — regular, sensitive, and ultra-sensitive

— have followed one another, homing in on viral suppression by moving toward lower and lower levels of detection. With third generation ultra-sensitive tests newly available, but not officially approved, it would be informative to shed some light on what viral load counts mean, how reliable they are, and the politics of using and paying for them.

What is viral load?

The currently available viral load tests measure virus in the blood by one of two methods:

PCR by Roche or branch DNA (bDNA) by Chiron. The two methods are very different, but most researchers agree that they are equally good and reliable. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the Roche medium-sensitive test (which measures down to 500 copies/mL) some time ago, but in the last few months it has become possible to measure viral load down to 50 copies/mL, with new ultra-sensitive Roche and Chiron assays.

Either test has certain innate limitations. They don't distinguish between virus that can and cannot replicate, and there can be a great many "non-productive" viral particles in the blood, so two people with the same viral load count may have different levels of infectious virus. Since the test only measures virus in blood, more painstaking and unavailable analyses of tissue and other, protected compartments of the body, like testicles and brain, may have different amounts (and different mutations) of virus.

How reliable is it?

Finally, the test is based on a logarithmic scale, which means that each factor of 10 is an equal measurement (50 to 500 say, or 5,000 to 50,000, or even 50,000 to 500,000 are all equivalent differences!) Furthermore, the tests are accurate to about half a log, so

two readings, with one being three times the other could be due solely to test variability. (Since one log equals 10 times, half a log is 10 to the one-half power, or the square root of 10, about 3.16 times.)

In addition, until now the two tests gave different results. Often the Roche PCR test gave higher results, which varied from individual to individual, but was generally double or more the viral load on the Chiron less-sensitive assays. This was a problem for someone who switched labs or assays, or who was getting viral load from more than one source, for example

in a clinical trial and doctor's office.

Meanwhile practitioners talk about viral load levels as if they were uniform. They talk about "undetectable" virus, which has evolved from under 10,000 copies, to under 500, to under 50 — and down to five copies in some experimental settings. This chase toward exactitude is driven by the desire to actually approach viral eradication, which in turn is an effort to forestall activity that would lead to mutations. When Chiron labs tested a large number of samples that had been below 500 copies/mL on the older test, 50 to 60 percent were also below 50 copies, 30 percent were between 50 and 500 copies, and 10 to 20 percent were over 500. In addition, with their new version Chiron's raw numbers are much closer to the Roche PCR, so their new test either consciously or accidentally is much more in line with the approved PCR assay, which has been more widely used in a research setting.

Using the results

Those of us who can't get antivirals to reduce our viral load to these low levels are somewhat at

the mercy of the chase toward undetectability. The new Chiron assay, version 3.0, is stated to give levels that are one to three times higher than the version two tests, which many of us, especially in Northern California, have been using as a standard.

Chiron has explained this in a "Dear Doctor" letter. Davies and Chiron labs have switched to the new sensitive assay, so most people who are not still undetectable should establish new baselines before assuming that a rise in their viral load it anything more than a result of the new assay. Doctors and patients need to stay calm and get used to higher numbers that may not mean anything has changed.

Payment

Last week many of us got an urgent e-mail from Brenda Lein at Project Inform because the Health Care Finance Administration (HCFA) has been holding a series of meetings over Medicare/Medicaid coverage of diagnostic and monitoring tests.

Essentially, HCFA proposed that a National Policy recommendation be made that Medicare covers only FDA-approved tests. What this means is that only the Roche PCR less sensitive test would be reimbursed. Currently states are given codes to cover HIV RNA monitoring and testing that they can use at their discretion, whereas the new policy would only reimburse for the older Roche test.

People who are following standard of care guidelines and using more sensitive HIV RNA monitoring tests (e.g., limit of detection 50) would no longer be able to use these tests or they would have to pay out of pocket if Medicare had been their source for reimbursement. Yet, even the Department of Health and Human Services guidelines are being revised to this standard. Al-

page 27 ►

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*Not all dental services are covered. Details of program available from office staff during the times listed above. Information not available on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday.

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If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Daniel L. Celeri
December 31, 1957 —
December 7, 1998



Daniel was peacefully born into his spiritual body, free of pain, sadness, and the hardships of life. He fought his illness with admirable courage and determination. Everyone fortunate enough to meet Daniel was honestly transformed, if only for a moment — some of us for a lifetime.

Daniel was a member of Omote Senke School of Japanese Tea Ceremony, where the problems and distractions of everyday life were replaced by an appreciation of beauty, simplicity, and spiritual tranquility.

He loved dancing, drawing, and painting. His childlike smile and magical personality will be missed by many.

Daniel is survived by his lifetime companion Shizuo, his brother Jason, his nieces Lanice and Tasia, Danny N., Tom & Nancy L., Winnie, Kona, and many more friends.

We love and will miss you Daniel until our paths cross again. Now you truly have become a "Knight of the White Light."

A memorial will be held at St. Benedict's Parish (Pine & Octavia) on December 6th at 5 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to Project Open Hand, St. Mary's Hospital, or the AIDS Emergency Fund.

Barry Thornton Jennings
August 18, 1944 —
November 11, 1998



Barry died unexpectedly at his home in San Francisco. He was 54 years old. Born and raised in Phoenix, Arizona, his namesake and Godfather was Senator Barry Goldwater.

He was a graduate of Tulane University in New Orleans, and spent the next year at the Sorbonne in Paris. Barry was fluent in French and German and traveled extensively in Europe. He had a great love and knowledge of both history and geography.

After college Barry taught in the Washington, D.C. public school system. He then entered U.S. civil service and had a successful career at the IRS in Human Resources. He transferred to San Francisco in the late 1970s to be the head of Human Resources for the Western Division of IRS until 1985. Most recently Barry worked for Fisher Development, Inc., in the accounting department.

Barry attended the Episcopal Church and was a deeply spiritual man. To his many friends in the City and to his co-workers, he was a loving and loyal friend and will be deeply missed for his many contributions to our lives.

Kenneth Charles Segara
July 27, 1949 — November 2, 1998

With his lover by his side, Kenny slipped peacefully into eternal rest while hospitalized at the V.A. Hospital in San Francisco. Kenny had a long and courageous struggle, fighting many infec-



tions. His will to live was an inspiration, admired by all who knew him, including his doctors and nurses whose compassion and professional care showed indeed the superior human beings they are.

Kenny was born in Queens, N.Y. and had a college degree in Liberal Arts. He joined the Navy where, upon falling in love with San Francisco, he literally jumped ship and took up permanent residence here.

He was in real estate and furniture sales for a number of years, and was a popular waiter at Le Domino. He was also a member of the Castro Lyons.

Ken was a great cook, and loved to create dinner parties, always impeccably dressed, and blessed with stunning good looks.

Kenny had many loving friends whose true loyalty lasted throughout his life. Kindness personified were his friends, Ray Bucher and Sam Singer. He is survived by his mother, Gloria Dunn, sister, Diana Mahony, and devoted life partner, William Houston.

"We fought the battle together, Honey, and I'll cherish your memory forever — I love you Kenney." Interment was at the National Cemetery in San Joaquin Valley (near Fresno).

Jaymes-Mark Williams
December 7, 1962 —
November 17, 1998



Jaymes-Mark Williams, a Renaissance man of the theatre, died of complications of treatment for Hodgkin's lymphoma on Tuesday, November 17.

Jaymes-Mark designed make-up and costumes for himself, his friends, and many Bay Area theatrical productions. Although his spectacular Hal- loween *Wizard of Oz* group, his *Edward Scissorhands*, and his *Melificent* are the stuff of legend, his last appearance in

1997 as the Wicked Witch of the West wearing the ruby slippers and carrying Dorothy's head in a basket were the ultimate expression of Jaymes-Mark's camp sensibility. He was one funny queen!

His all-singing, all-dancing, all-joking Joan Crawford persona was welcomed from San Francisco to Provincetown, where he was the darling of this Summer's Carnival.

As a big-voiced and exuberant bass-baritone, he also appeared in troupers often with the Lamplighters, and at the Bracebridge Christmas dinners in

Yosemite.

There are no appropriate words, no poetry, to describe the loopy silly benign glow that Jaymes-Mark always seemed to emit, and his deep tender soul that was almost palpable beneath his skin.

He was one of life's gentle creatures, and his friends and many significant others feel a great sadness that we will no longer enjoy the simple pleasure of his presence.

A memorial concert to celebrate Jaymes-Mark is planned for the Spring.

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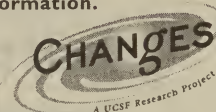
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'Zillarated

by Jim Provenzano

While Roland Emmerich and Dean Devlin's recent cinematic version of *Godzilla* is, like its creators, queer in a big way—becoming an asexual self-reproducing male with a tail—here in San Francisco, he's always been gay.

The 4-year-old GAPA *Godzilla*, the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance's volleyball team, returned stateside with big victories at Gay Games V, a silver medal in the AA Division; they also took second at the NAGVA 1997 Nationals in Philadelphia, and took first place at a recent Los Angeles regional competition.

Danny Wong, one of the original organizers of the team, said that "we've definitely evolved," with new players and more experience (but no parthenogenetically-produced eggs, as yet).

Despite being a San Francisco native, Wong did not find coming out any easier than most. "There were no role models, and in the Chinese-American community, you don't even talk about sex, let alone being gay."

It was only after college and after meeting fellow teacher the late Tim Curbo, who happened to be the openly gay lover of Tom Ammiano, that Wong found it in himself to be open as well. Along with becoming an out gay teacher, he's helped develop one of the Bay Area's most popular sports for gay men.

Wong saw how Gay Games helps create communities where athletes gain self-esteem and take it back home. He noted how



The fearsome Godzilla.

many people from all over the world return with a new determination and freedom to be out.

"Once you've enjoyed it like that, being so comfortable, you can't go back."

He did note a dearth of global diversity in the numbers of attendees, particularly since he, like many players, spent almost the entire week playing, and even then mostly against other U.S. teams. Most of gay volleyball's best teams are from Los Angeles, New York, and Denver.

Butching it up

South San Francisco's Henry Groen, of the San Jose Joy Luck Club, commented on the popularity of volleyball among gay men. "It's more acceptable and it's easier to pick up than some other sports, and it's not as violent."

Joy Luck Clubbers didn't have enough players to go as a full team, so they combined forces with GAPA to create the powerhouse of spikers and setters.

"We usually play in gay tournaments," Groen said, "but we also compete as part of the Northern California Volleyball Association. There's a lot of straight teams there. It's very competitive, and we have to work harder."

"We butch it up a little bit,"

joked Neil Samonte, who started playing volleyball five years ago, first at a class at City College, then as part of the Saturday morning games at Eureka Valley Recreation Center in the Castro. Over the years, he's seen that the sport is competitive, even in gay leagues. But it doesn't have the pressure of the closet.

"It's easier to be yourself," said Groen. "You don't have to worry. If you act queeny, it's not looked down upon. People have so much fun."

Samonte added that "It's also fun to play against straight teams. We queen it up, but still play hard."

Amsterdam was Groen's first Gay Games, and "a lot of fun," he said. Both men hope to play in Sydney 2002, but know that the expenses and travel distance may deter a lot of worthy athletes.

Stunt persons

Dave Karraker, who sported a Gay Games V T-shirt from Czechoslovakia, mentioned there were 270 teams overall in the sport, but due to their highly-ranked level, GAPA *Godzilla* played against only a half-dozen teams, mostly with those they play at U.S. tournaments.

"The hope was there'd be more teams from other countries," Karraker said, but more foreign teams competed in B and BB categories.

Howard Evans, also one of the

next page ►

GAY GAMES V

Volleyball results

Women's AA

1. Dutch Dream Team (NL)
2. Team Berkeley (USA)
3. BGS Brussel (BEL)

Women's A

1. Nimm Du (GER)
2. Netzo 1 (NL)
3. Team Tomboy Chicago (USA)

Women's B

1. Tools (CAN)
2. Colonial Warmonists (GER)
3. Netzo 2 (NL)

Women's C

1. & 2. Yankee - M. Lambda Folles (?)
3. Unplugged (SWI)

Men's AA

1. Jurassic Trailer (USA)
2. GAPA *Godzilla* (USA)

3. Gay Sport Zurich (SUI)

Men's A

- 1 & 2. Power Authority (NYC)
3. Higher Power (Denver)
4. Joy Luck Club (San Jose)

Men's B

1. & 2. TNTs (Toronto)
3. Atlanta Grits
4. Tokyo Typhoon

Men's BB

1. & 2. Loreley (Frankfurt)
3. Puerto Rico Pirate (USA)

Men's C

1. & 2. Aufruhr - Bernadettes (?)
3. Touch of Gothenberg (SWE)

For full results, visit the Gay Games/Federation web site at <http://www.gaygames.org>

World AIDS Day

◀ page 16

Touch (STT) message volunteer team was formed. By 1989, STT volunteers served 19 health care facilities in the Bay Area.

Today, Smith's articles, audio tapes, video tapes, and training materials continue to inspire thousands of volunteers for PWAs.

Weyand said the grove will erect a tent in the meadow to assure the ceremony will proceed in the event of inclement weather. World AIDS Day also marks the completion of the construction of the grove and kicks off the "Ensure Remembrance Campaign" that will fund the permanent care of the grove.

The National AIDS Memorial Grove is located in the eastern end of the park, north of the bowling greens and west of the tennis courts. For more information on Tuesday's ceremony or the grove, call (415) 750-8340 or visit the website at www.aidsmemorial.org.

UCSF symposium

UCSF's AIDS Research Institute presents the second annual World AIDS Day symposium, "On the Road to an HIV Vaccine" Tuesday from 2 to 5 p.m. at Cole Hall, 513 Parnassus Avenue. A reception will follow. For information, call (415) 597-9203; registration is free.

The keynote speaker is Dr. Neal Nathanson, director of the National Institutes of Health's Office of AIDS Research. He'll be discussing why an AIDS vaccine is so hard to develop. In a career spanning 35 years, Nathanson is known particularly for his contributions to the field of viral epidemiology as the author of the

definitive papers on the epidemiology of polio. In recent years, his NIH-sponsored work has included studies in the mechanisms by which HIV causes disease.

The Office of AIDS Research has made HIV vaccine development a high priority, restructuring and revitalizing the program and providing significantly increased resources for this effort.

A featured presentation will also be made by Dr. Lawrence K. Altman, medical correspondent for the *New York Times*. Altman is one of the few medical doctors working as a full time daily newspaper reporter. He will be speaking on perspectives on the challenges of the AIDS vaccine. Altman, who joined the *New York Times* science staff in 1969, is an award-winning science journalist.

"The Current State of the Vaccine," is a panel presentation that will be moderated by Dr. Jay Levy, a professor in UCSF's Department of Medicine. The panel will include distinguished scientists in the fields of clinical medicine, epidemiology, and ethics, including Drs. Susan Buchbinder, James Kahn, and Bernard Lo.

Levy has been involved in research from the start of the epidemic, and is acknowledged as a co-discoverer of HIV in 1983. He is actively searching for a vaccine. Under the auspices of the ARI, he has organized a campus-wide effort on vaccine research.

Coates, ARI's director, will present this year's accomplishments of the institute as well as the vision for 1999. UCSF created ARI last year in recognition of its obligations to the city of San Francisco, the U.S., and the world to work as hard and effectively as it can to forge significant scientific advances in preventing, understanding, and treating HIV infec-

tion. The institute fosters outstanding, innovative, and integrated research in HIV/AIDS.

Plays from 'Pieces of the Quilt'

The Artists Alliance Against AIDS (AAAA), the umbrella organization for *Pieces of the Quilt*, and the Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts present plays from *Pieces of the Quilt*, directed by Danny Scheie, on World AIDS Day at 7:30 p.m. at Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka Street, between 18th and 19th streets in the Castro. There is no admission fee, but a \$5-\$10 donation is suggested. No one will be turned away for lack of funds.

The event includes performances of plays written specifically for *Pieces of the Quilt*, including *A Prayer* by Tony Kushner, *Wednesday's Child* by Migdalia Cruz, and *The Big Quilt* by director Scheie. These three plays will be performed by University of California at Santa Cruz actors from the school's fall production. The last work of the evening is *Collingwood Park 94114: Volunteers*, by Alan Quismorio, and will be performed by members of AAAA's Emerging Playwrights program.

The performance follows a 6 p.m. memorial service presented by MCC-SF in conjunction with World AIDS Day. At 7:15 p.m., classical pianist Manuel Martinez will play contemplative music in honor of those who have died and those currently in the struggle against AIDS. The community is welcome to attend.

AAAA is an AIDS service organization dedicated to bringing before the public theater that enhances AIDS awareness. *Pieces of the Quilt*, a collection of one-act plays and monologues based on AIDS themes by leading American playwrights, is the heart of a community outreach program presented by AAAA in collaboration with the Jon Sims Center. Stagings of the plays are arranged for clinics, shelters, schools, uni-

versities, and performing centers to deal with AIDS, surviving its impact, and handling grief over lost loved ones.

For more information on this and other programs of the Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts, call Lauren Hewitt at (415) 554-0402.

ACT UP/East Bay demo

The politically inclined are encouraged to take the short drive or BART ride over to Oakland at 5 p.m. Tuesday, for ACT UP/East Bay's annual World AIDS Day candlelight vigil. This year it will take place in front of the Alameda County Administration building, to demand that the county fund needle exchange. John Iversen, with ACT UP/East Bay, said the group will also have its annual "selective raffle" sheet, where people can choose which prizes they'd like to win and purchase tickets for \$1 each. The drawing takes place December 8 and people need not be present to win.

Speakers at the vigil will include a variety of East Bay politicians, religious, and health officials, including Maudelle Shirek, Berkeley's vice mayor; Kriss Worthington, Berkeley's openly gay city councilmember; John Russo and Nate Miley, both Oakland city councilmembers; Bunny Knuckles, from Women Organized to Respond to Life Threatening Diseases; Bongane Nyathi of McGee Avenue Baptist Church; Jan Gilbrecht, from Alameda County Needle Exchange; and representatives from the California Nurses Association.

The county building is located at 1221 Oak Street, just a few blocks away from the Lake Merritt BART station. For more information on the event or the raffle, call (510) 568-1680.

Web channel launched

For World AIDS Day, the nonprofit Immunit is launching its new AIDS-dot-ORG web address: www.aids.org, making it easier for PWAs to stay informed. The website is the result of new AIDS ther-

apies giving new life to thousands and providing quality treatment information to people.

"People worldwide will easily find critical HIV and AIDS information by simply typing 'aids.org' in any Internet web browser," said Mark F. Johnson, president and founder of AIDS-dot-ORG/Immunit.

Added Gary Schaff, director of communications for Immunit, "AIDS-dot-ORG is the logical starting point for finding AIDS treatment information on the web. We invite other information providers and AIDS organizations to work with us, so that everyone can benefit from the easy to remember 'aids.org' web address."

AIDS-dot-ORG includes the respected *AIDS Treatment News* archive, accredited continuing medical education (CME), Direct AIDS Alternative Information Resources (DAAIR), the Immunit AIDS bookstore, with over 3,000 titles, independent AIDS book reviews, medical conference listings and abstracts, a resource directory, hotline phone numbers, and links to quality information on other websites.

Immunit has enjoyed immense popularity since launching the first on-line accredited CME programs on AIDS treatment in 1996, and was the first to offer on-line CMEs in an interactive audio-visual format. On only three years, Immunit has received almost nine million hits from over 140 countries.

Founded in 1993, Immunit is a nonprofit organization dedicated to harnessing the power of the Internet in the battle against HIV/AIDS. As a nonprofit, Immunit can assure that its AIDS-dot-ORG outlet provides unbiased information. "The answer to AIDS lies in a thousand pieces," Johnson said, "and if we can connect those pieces, we can find a cure for HIV and AIDS. Nothing is more important in the fight against AIDS than building a community dedicated to the free and open exchange of information and alternatives." ▼

Sports Complex

◀ previous page

silver medalists, noted that Godzilla sort of rules the roost, in that "around here there aren't many top level AA teams that are gay, so we play NCVA."

"And won the title last year against straight teams," Karraker added. Team members also play doubles and outdoor as well (on grass, not beaches, leaving that to the overtanned SoCal league that hogs the limited ESPN time this sport receives).

When asked about the best way to avoid the dreaded knee injuries volleyball players can suffer, due to the frequent falling to save the ball, the men laughed after blurring in unison, "Don't play!"

"Seriously, you have to learn how to fall," said Karraker. "When you get more mature, you have to ice before and after every game."

Albert Ha, who started playing four years ago, said, "When that adrenaline is high, you kind of sacrifice your bodies to go for that ball," which makes kneecaps, and the ability to be your own stunt man, almost a necessity.

Ha has fond memories of Gay Games. "It was great to see all the

athletes together in one place," particularly gay guys, since he described his experience in collegiate volleyball at San Francisco's City College as "very homophobic. There's a big difference with NAGVA."

Evans put it sweetly. "It's like a family." He did stress that Godzilla and other NAGVA players don't go into competition "as a gay team. We don't walk in say, 'Hi, we're gay. Look at us.' But eventually they find out we're gay."

Evans did note that there have been few problems, other than the usual steam being let off when straight teams discover their gay opponents can play just as hard, if not harder. One of GAPA's transgender players got some harassment, Evans said, "until she spiked the ball down on their face."

That adds a whole new dimension to "wrist action." ▼

Men's volleyball continues every Saturday 10 a.m.-12:30 at Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood at 18th, behind Cala Foods. Find out more about GAPA Volleyball online at: <http://home.att.net/~thunderbumper/gapavolleyball.html>

Dykeotomy

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about gays and lesbians in the military, custody rights, job security, medical needs and health concerns, gay marriage, sexual freedom, discrimination, civil rights, sodomy laws, experiences of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth, experiences of aging, physical safety, hate crimes legislation, events in the community and arguments in the community, what binds us together and tears us apart and bumps us into each other and challenges us to be alive together. In short, I wrote about a slew of topics that remain in the headlines as well as those that remain so marginalized they rarely see print—the same as it ever was ... only today, now, somehow different.

And after reading four years worth of my two cents, I realize that I'm still asking many of the same questions: In a world where race still matters and socioeconomic factors determine a great deal, how can being gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender bind us or blind us? What information about our lives is available to us and to others? How are we discussed in schools, in the news, in entertainment, and in literature? Why do we treat our dogs and cats so well?

It's always worth a wider perspective too. What life would Alice and Freda be living today? Would they have competed in the Gay Games? Would they have dropped out of high school due to the harassment only to be living on the streets? Would they be guests on *Geraldo*? Might they sign on to the gay speakers bureau in Memphis? Would Alice drink too much? Would Freda work on Wall Street? Would they be fighting for the

right to adopt, looking for a sperm donor, or raising Jack Russell terriers? Would their relatives still object to their relationship? Would they be beaten up and left by the side of a Memphis road, dismissable as a pair of scarecrows to the first bicyclist passing by?

It's hard to know. But it's easy to see that we have to keep asking the questions. We have to keep thinking of all the options. It's a wide world out there, and we're part of it. Compared to the past—100 years ago or four—it's the same, only different. Perhaps it's true for me too; compared to four years ago, I'm the same, only different. I'm looking forward to what I have to say. I hope you are too. ▼

For B.A.R. trivia fans: under what other column title did my words briefly appear? Answer next week.

ACT UP

◀ page 24

though this is a cost-neutral issue, whether someone is using the Chiron, Roche, or any other more sensitive tests, they would no longer be covered.

For people who have been monitoring at labs that use technology other than the Roche PCR less sensitive tests, baselines would have to be redrawn if they have to switch. Some county labs have been trained and equipped to run

the Chiron DNA tests, and county labs will have to convert to the Roche technology and retrain staff. This may cause some delays and will certainly have a cost impact on county labs not using the older version of the Roche technology. The companies and a number of prominent researchers have lined up against this recommendation, so it may be averted. The results will be reported in the Federal Register with an opportunity for public comment.

Certainly, we must pressure the companies developing these

technologies to get their applications and data submitted to the FDA and then pressure the FDA to review these materials quickly. However, regardless of formal FDA approval, sensitive HIV RNA testing is considered optimal monitoring. It would be wrong for HCFA to deny the underserved and uninsured access to these tests. It is not a cost issue. The more sensitive tests do not cost more than the less sensitive tests, so HCFA would save no money in creating this difficulty for people. ▼

Round two

Red Rain, the one-hour documentary about Gina Guidi, a San Leandro lesbian and champion boxer, is getting another Bay Area screening after its sold-out premiere. Guidi will be at this benefit screening to raffle off a pair of autographed boxing gloves! Proceeds from the raffle and film will be used to offset production costs and to convert Red Rain for entry into many prestigious film festivals in the United States and abroad.

See it this Tuesday, December 1, at 7 p.m. at The Make-Out Room, 3225 22nd Street, at Mission, in San Francisco. \$7-10. (415) 647-2888. ▼

Polk Street murder victim gone, not forgotten, after four years

by Mark Norby

A San Francisco gay man charges that police investigators no longer care about Thomas (Tommy) Wenger, a troubled young man who occasionally hustled on Polk Street and became the victim of a grisly murder in 1994. Gary King, who was instrumental from the beginning in providing authorities with information about the homicide, believes he has more crucial data that could reveal who may be the killer.

The San Francisco Police Department (SFPD), however, has not been forthcoming in responding.

King fears that the investigation will cease because Wenger — without bereaved family and friends who might otherwise provide impetus to the police department to continue its investigation — was a penniless, cocaine-addicted gay hustler. The last King has heard from the department was in February, he says. Since then, his calls have been

rental records will give the name and may indicate where the person is to be located.

Four years is too long

The rental records, however, may have already been destroyed, the *Bay Area Reporter* has learned. In a phone call to Trinity Towers management office, a records officer explained that records are "usually kept for a six-month period. After that they are transferred to the corporate office and from there they may be kept or destroyed."

King wonders, "If they do have the records — which they should have in any case if they really have been investigating from the beginning — why haven't they released the information?"

"It should not take [nearly] five years for San Francisco police to identify and talk with the roommate of Tommy Wenger."

All that is known about the occupant of the apartment, according to King, is that he matches similar descriptions of one of two men last seen before Wenger's murder, and that he

"It should not take five years for the police to identify and talk with the roommate of Wenger."

channeled to the voicemail boxes of SFPD investigators Mike Johnson and Alex Fagan, and have not been returned.

A dumpster diver found Wenger's body March 28, 1994, in separate plastic garbage bags in a trash receptacle in Myrtle Alley, between Polk and Larkin streets. The victim had been beaten, burned, and strangled, then decapitated and dismembered. The body had been drained of all blood by way of deep slashes to the wrists.

King insists that shortly before the homicide, he accompanied Wenger to an apartment in the Trinity Towers apartment building adjacent to the alley. That, he believes, is where the killing and dismembering took place. "The body was found three feet from an exit out of Trinity Towers," he points out, "and [the dumpster was located] almost directly below the apartment Tommy was staying in."

He says he has provided detailed information to the police, both about the apartment's location and Wenger's apparent roommate, and complains that detectives are not moving forward with the information.

"The inspectors said back in February that they would obtain the rental records," he says, "and told me not to do anything more [in the case]."

King says the records at the Trinity Towers apartments "tell information about who was living in that apartment."

If the occupant of the apartment at Trinity Towers matches the descriptions by both King and the investigative department,

may have been a medical student.

The last point is important because, as police reports confirm, the body was probably surgically dismembered. The other factor is the draining of the body's blood, a procedure that would likely be used by "someone in the medical profession," according to the initial investigative reports.

One other possible suspect in the case, albeit briefly, was Englishman Martin Scripps, who was convicted of several murders in different countries in similar fashion to the Wenger case. In the early spring of 1995, police released information to the press about Scripps, who had learned butchery techniques in a prison work rehabilitation program. Scripps is no longer under suspicion in the Wenger case, however, since his travel schedule put him halfway around the world from Polk Street at the time of the killing.

King says he now believes that if he had not learned of the murder and taken an active role in solving the case, he could have ended up with a similar fate as Wenger. His role in the case has helped him change his life for the better, he says.

And, despite the frustrations surrounding this case, he asks anyone with further information or those interested in the murder of Wenger to contact investigators Mike Johnson and Alex Fagan at the SFPD investigations department at (415) 553-1145.

Calls from the *B.A.R.* to the SFPD Department of Investigations were not returned by press time. ▼

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The following person(s) are doing business as Emerald City Exports, 835 14th St. San Francisco CA 94114. This business is conducted by an general partnership, Bradford R. Wells, Anthony J. Malik, signed Bradford R. Wells. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on, NA. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 10/30/98. NOV. 5, 12, 19, 26, 1998

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The following person(s) are doing business as The Prownd Watch SVC CTR America, 888 Brannan St, Suite 3300, SF., CA 94103. This business is conducted by an individual Avi Dayan. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on, 10/01/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 10/21/98. NOV. 5, 12, 19, 26, 1998

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LEGAL NOTICES

In the Matter of the Application of Gerald Anthony Perry. For Change of Name. The application of Gerald Anthony Perry for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Gerald Anthony Perry has filed an application proposing that his name be changed to Jabari Ajala Sekow. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 8th day of December 1998, at 9:00 o'clock A.M., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
NOV. 5, 12, 19, 26, 1998

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME FILE NO. 209654
The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: OffRamp Leathers, 97 Duboce Ave., SF, CA 94103. The fictitious business name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on

11/27/1996. This business was conducted by a individual signed John Oris Bernal, 3rd. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of San Francisco county on 11/27/98.
NOV. 12, 19, 26, DEC 3, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 226779
The following person(s) are doing business as OffRamp Leathers, 97 Duboce Ave., SF, CA 94103. This business is conducted by co-partners John O. Bernal 3rd, Paul T. Johnson. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on 10/01/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/06/98.
NOV. 12, 19, 26, DEC 3, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 226577
The following person(s) are doing business as Rix Trux, 1525 Galvez Ave., SF, 94124. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Rezo Springer, President. The registrant(s) commenced to

transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on 10/01/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/06/98.
NOV. 12, 19, 26, DEC 3, 1998

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO: FILE NO. 999103
In the Matter of the Application of Sandra J. Krummell. For Change of Name. The application of Sandra J. Krummell for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Sandra J. Krummell has filed an application proposing that her name be changed to Alexandra J. Abrams. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 17th day of December 1998, at 9:00 o'clock A.M., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

NOV. 19, 25 DEC 3, 10, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 226831
The following person(s) are doing business as Hotel Galaxy or Galaxy Hotel 72 Ellis St. SF., CA 94102. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Frank E. Lembi, President. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/10/98.
NOV. 19, 25, DEC 3, 10 1998

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO: FILE NO. 271208
NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE
Of Horst Hans Grahmann. To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of Horst Hans Grahmann. The petition for

probate has been filed by William T. Brown in the Superior Court Of California County of San Francisco. The petition for probate requests that William T. Brown be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action. The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A hearing on the petition will be held on 12/7/98 at 9:00am Dept 13 Rm 204 at the Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco 400 McAllister St. SF., CA 94102. If you object to

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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE NO. 226968
The following person(s) are doing business as Jeff Whitehead Lutherie 1617 Folsom St., San Francisco, CA 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jeffrey A. Whitehead. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 11/17/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/17/98.
NOV. 25, DEC 3,10,17, 1998

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the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100, the time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above. You may examine the file kept by the court, if you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate code section 1250. A request for special notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for petitioner Mr. Paul H. Melboast 100 Van Ness Avenue, 21st Floor San Francisco CA 94102 (415) 621-5600.

NOV 19, 25, DEC 3, 10, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 227004

The following person(s) are doing business as Spencer4Hire 168 19th Ave., San Francisco, CA 94121. This business is conducted by an individual signed Elizabeth S. Franklin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 11/18/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/18/98.
NOV. 25, DEC 3,10,17, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 226918

The following person(s) are doing business as Slaton 15 Hartford St. San Francisco, CA 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Phillip Brooks Slaton. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 11/16/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/16/98.
NOV. 25, DEC 3,10,17, 1998

NOV 19, 25, DEC 3, 10, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 227031

The following person(s) are doing business as Old Krakow 385 West Portal Ave, San Francisco, CA 94127. This business is conducted by an individual signed Tullik Krystyna. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 11/19/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/19/98.
NOV. 25, DEC 3,10,17, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 227019

The following person(s) are doing business as Frisco Erectors 1265 Van Dyke Ave San Francisco, CA 94124. This business is conducted by an individual signed John Murillo. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 11/19/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/19/98.
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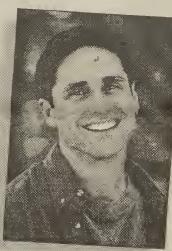
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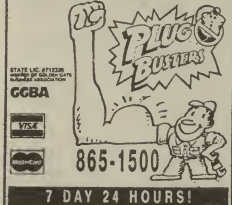
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It's a beautiful thing, success
British playwright Jonathan Harvey
surveys his handiwork in America.

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She's got MIDI riffs
Pamela Z puts soul into
electronica. In *Calendare*.

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Shades of Bey
The artist is gay, but
jazz is jazz, regardless.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 28 • No. 48 • 26 November 1998



The mother of them all

Joan Crawford, great Mom (in reel life)

by Tavo Amador

Depending on your point of view, Joan Crawford-as-mother has been either accurately portrayed or unjustly demonized by her eldest daughter Christina. Although another of Crawford's children, Cathy, has publicly refuted her sister's version of life with mother in *Mommie Dearest*, the image of Faye Dunaway as the abusive Joan has become a camp icon. That image has inspired Artful Circle Theatre's annual production of *Christmas with the Crawfords*, which opens tomorrow at the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre.

Whatever the truth of the real Crawford-as-mom, her real-life image is above reproach. In her nearly fifty-year career, Joan seldom played mommies, dearest or otherwise. Stars of her era were expected to be glamorous and beautiful; and Joan excelled at both. Motherhood was not considered an image enhancer.

Hence, Joan's first foray into screen maternity coincided with her well-publicized adoption of Christina and didn't come until 1940's *Susan and God*. At the time, Crawford had temporarily halted a career decline with 1939's *The Women*, the first of three films she did for openly gay director George Cukor, and was looking for better parts. After being MGM's top female box-office draw from 1930-1936, she experienced a drop in popularity blamed on poor films with formulaic plots.

Susan and God, helmed by Cukor, was taken from Rachel Crother's hit Broadway play starring Gertrude Lawrence. The first half of the film is witty, as is Joan's performance as a well-meaning society matron drawn to a religious cult. In her efforts to do good, she neglects the emotional needs of her husband (Frederic March) and shy, maladjusted teenage daughter (Rite Quigley). In the second half, when she turns her attention to them and gives up her fatuous religion, the film sinks. But the image of Crawford as a mother who may not be perfect but who does what is

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All is grace

by Gary Morris

Robert Bresson at the Pacific Film Archive

There aren't many art forms where commercial success is consistently equated with aesthetic worth. In painting, the idea that Walter Keane is a better artist than Picasso would be laughingly dismissed. And anyone claiming that Sidney Sheldon's spew outranks the work of William Faulkner might invite censure, or even impeachment. Among the major arts, it's only in film that popular hacks — Steven Spielberg foremost among them — merit innumerable awards, miles of media exposure, and armies of imitators trying to re-create both their standing and their success. This distressing cultural trend has resulted in some serious cinematic casualties; the most notable may be the work of French director Robert Bresson.

Bresson, born in 1901, is a true anomaly even by the exacting standards of intransigent auteurs à la Sternberg or Carl Dreyer. A "Christian atheist" by his own paradoxical description, he began directing feature films in 1943 with *Les Anges du péché* (*Angels of Sin*),

but only made a total of 13 during the next 40 years. His sources were almost invariably classical — Diderot, Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, Bernanos — but his radical reinterpretations of the material frequently made it almost unrecognizable. A superb manipulator of narrative incident, he focused increasingly on slight, seemingly irrelevant details in the story, often obscuring or hiding major plot twists. A master director of actors, he refused to use them after his first two films, turning instead to what he perversely called "models" — amateurs that he ruthlessly rehearsed to rid them of any traces of theatricality. Even the standard running time of a feature could be cast aside; his 1962 version of the life of Joan of Arc runs a mere 65 minutes.

Sowing seeds

Bresson's early films are stylized melodramas with the luminous look of French poetic realism. The second of these, *Les Dames du Bois de Boulogne* (1945), was

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From Robert Bresson's
Lancelot of the Lake

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

From bell bottoms to bugle beads

Thanks for Chering

by John R. Killacky



Cher's early innocence captured many a young gay man's heart.

Before Woodstock and the Summer of Love, an overly mascaraed teeny-bopper waif came into my life singing to her shaggy-haired partner in a bobcat vest about love prevailing against a cruel and unjust world: "They say we're young and we don't know/ We won't find out until we grow/ Well, I don't know if all that's true/ 'Cause you got me, and baby, I got you ... babe."

That summer of 1965, Sonny and Cher were bigger than the Beatles. "I Got You Babe" sold three million copies, and they charted three other singles simultaneously. I was thirteen, bought my first album, and left the crew-cut behind.

Their hippie image waned before long, but the star-crossed couple reinvented themselves for the '70s with Las Vegas shtick, and they ruled Sunday night television in a variety series known more for its costumes than for anything else. At the conclusion of every show, the all-too-glamorous/fabulous Cher would gaze into her goofy Sven-gali's eyes and sing adoringly: "Then put your little hand in mine/ There ain't no hill or mountain we can't climb ... babe."

Cher filled for divorce in 1974, however, citing involuntary servitude. The tabloids detailed Sonny and Cher's acrimonious split, and each tried to establish separate careers over the next decade. Sonny dabbled with acting, restaurant ownership, and eventually politics. Cher juggled singing, infomercials, and being taken seriously as an actress. Despite the bitterness of all their legal tussles, Cher appeared at the openings of his latest restaurant ventures, and they came together on David Letterman's talk show in 1988 as she campaigned for her Oscar and he to become mayor of Palm Spring. Strangely, after working so hard to distance themselves in the public's mind, they reprised "I Got You Babe" once more: "And when I'm sad, you're a clown/ And if I get scared, you're always around."

This was the last time they performed together, but it was not the last time they revisited their signature hit. Sonny performed it later that year, dueting with their daughter Chastity. In 1993, Cher introduced it to another generation on MTV, covering the song with the animated adolescent characters Beavis and Butt-Head.

"I Got You Babe" had one final curtain call this year after Sonny's fatal skiing accident. The funeral

was broadcast live as Cher eulogized her former husband and singing partner. Last May, she put together a television special on their early years together as they went from bell bottoms to bugle beads, all the while singing: "I got you to walk with me/ I got you to talk with me/ I got you to kiss goodnight/ I got you to hold me tight."

Lately, we have been hearing even more from Cher as she promotes her new book *The First Time* (Simon & Schuster) and the sizzling dance-till-you-drop single "Believe" (already in the top ten in England, Denmark, Austria, and Germany) from her new Warner Bros. album of the same name. Buzz has also grown around her performance in Franco Zeffirelli's autobiographical costume opus set in pre-World War II Italy, *Tea with Mussolini*. Yet no matter how many incarnations her career takes, I will always remember her as that young innocent girl hanging on to Sonny for all her life: "I got you I won't let go/ I got you to love me so/ I got you babe/ Repeat To Fade..." ▼

John R. Killacky is Executive Director of Yerba Buena Center for the Arts.

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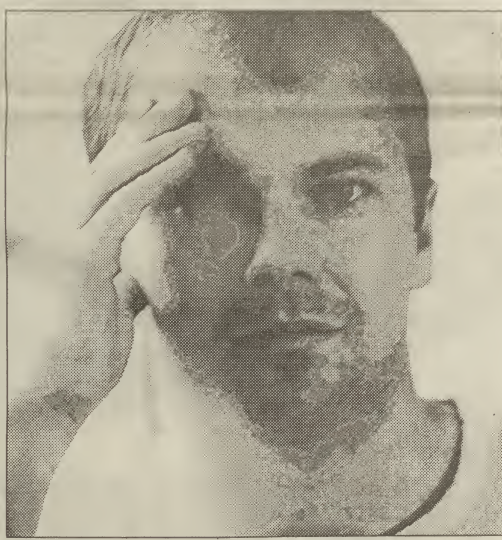
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Andrew Sullivan enjoys stirring up controversy, and feeling appreciated.

Come together

A chat with Andrew Sullivan

by Dan Blue

When I met Andrew Sullivan, he was dressed in a plaid sport shirt just like the one he had worn the previous night at an MCC service. It was also the shirt he wore on a recent broadcast of *Charlie Rose*. Maybe he just had a laundry shortage, but the shirt seemed a statement, especially on *Charlie Rose*, where men prefer a coat and tie. After five years facing death from HIV, Sullivan didn't have to dress up.

He came across instead as unaffected and utterly human. When the interviewer arrived at his hotel

room, he had ordered tea and offered some cookies that a cousin had sent from England. Sullivan clearly savored those cookies and didn't press twice when the guest refused. Stocky and balding — a cross between Phil Collins and a young Bob Hoskins — he seemed happy in his body. The two had gone through hard times together and were friends. His eyes, while not large, were sensitive and so deep they seemed enormous.

Sullivan had given a reading at MCC the night before and was still moved by the audience response. The selection he had chosen came from his new book, *Love*

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FILM

The emperor waltzes again

'The Last Emperor' restored

by Chris Culwell

Bernardo Bertolucci has always specialized in epic filmmaking, movies that are longer, more expensive, and bigger in every way than anybody else's (at least in Europe). Frequently his pictures have been attractive twaddle, like *Last Tango in Paris*, *Luna*, and the recent *Stealing Beauty*, but more often than not they've been elaborate forays into politics and psychology, a vantage point from which he has occasionally extrapolated to make sometimes remarkable, sometimes overwrought statements about the human condition. Before the *Revolution* (1964) and *The Spider's Stratagem* (1970) fall into the latter category, but *The Conformist* (1971), a disturbing film that tries to get into the head of a man hired by Italian Fascists to murder his former professor in France, is likely to be remembered as one of the most important films to emerge from Europe in the postwar period (it's adapted from a novel by Alberto Moravia).

Bertolucci's concern with politics, with the organization of society and its effects on the individual, is hardly surprising. He did come of age, after all, in Europe in the 1940s, when it seemed an entire continent was plunged into war and genocide as the result of one man's folly. What is amazing, though, is Bertolucci's stick-with-it-ness for a type of film that other directors of his generation have forsaken for more popular entertainments. His fluffier endeavors aside, Bertolucci has remained consistently high-minded. In 1976 came *1900*, a six-hour epic that tells the stories of two Italian families — one rich, one poor — in the first half of the 20th century, and ten years later he turned his cameras from West to East with *The Last Emperor*, a colossal financial and artistic undertaking written and directed by Bertolucci and photographed by Vittorio Storaro. The film's original running time was a whopping three and a half hours, which Bertolucci then shortened by one hour. The excised footage has now



Wu Tao and Joan Chen in Bernardo Bertolucci's *The Last Emperor*

been restored in the director's own re-edited version, which plays the Castro Theatre November 25 - December 3.

A melancholy spirit

The Last Emperor closely examines the life of the last Manchurian emperor, Pu Yi, who came to power at the age of three in 1908 and ruled, mostly as a figurehead, until 1924, when he was ousted by communist insurrectionists. The film deftly underscores the melancholy spirit of a young man who wants only to live a normal life, like other people, but is mostly a prisoner in his own palace, a captive of sniveling servants and snooping sycophants who gain enormously from his status as a mere symbol of China's powerful Imperial past. When Pu Yi is finally forced out of his 1000-room palace, it's his maiden voyage into the real world, and one senses how ill-equipped he is for such a trip.

With wife and mistress in tow, Pu Yi flees to Teintsin, where he adopts the decadent lifestyle of a ne'er-do-well, chain-smoking dandy who changes his name to Henry and learns to dance the jitterbug. Though not wanting for

a changed man. It's a sprawling story, one that shows nothing less than a man's journey from privilege to disenfranchisement, from delusion to reality.

The restored version of *The Last Emperor* offers little in the way of new plot twists, characters or endings, but there are several new scenes, and many existing ones have been expanded, giving the film greater coherence and purpose. The additional connective tissue also humanizes the adult, post-Imperial Pu Yi (John Lone), who seemed strangely truncated in the earlier version. But the real benefit of the director's cut is that it furnishes additional evi-

dence of Vittorio Storaro's genius. In a film of this length and complexity, there's the risk of bloat, of too many details adding up to a mere history lesson, yet while the film doesn't entirely avoid oversimplification, Storaro's camera never fails to get underneath the surface of things to tell a story that could never be told by words alone. He gives new meaning to the line "visually sumptuous." See it for yourself. Films don't get much better than this. ▼

The Last Emperor, now playing at the Castro Theatre, runs through December 3.

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Jazz-tinted vocals

Interview with jazz vocalist and pianist Andy Bey



Andy Bey

by Gregg Shapiro

Ending a more than twenty-year silence in recorded music, jazz vocalist and pianist Andy Bey returned in a big way two years ago with his well-received *Ballads, Blues & Bey* CD. Not letting too much time go by, the openly gay Bey has followed up that CD with the remarkable *Shades Of Bey* (both Evidence/12th Street Records), on which he effortlessly combines the work of established jazz composers (Ellington and Strayhorn, Thelonious Monk) with those whom you might not expect to find on an album of jazz vocals (Comden and Green, Marilyn and Alan Bergman, Nick Drake), for one of the great listening experiences of this year, and years to come.

Gregg Shapiro: Like Hollywood, in recent years, the world of jazz performers appears to be slowly opening the closet door. The presence of openly gay male jazz performers (including Fred Hersch and Michael Feinstein) on the charts and on the scene (such as Steven Kowalczyk and Ian Shaw) is increasing in dribs and drabs. How does it feel to be in such good company?

Andy Bey: The [gay] label... I'm not saying that it's bad. It's great. But why not just be a musician?

Sure, whatever it is, if we're gay, we're gay. I don't know. It doesn't disturb me that people say I'm a gay musician, but I'd rather they just say I'm a musician, and let it be self-explanatory. When you start getting into labels and things, sometimes that... well, it doesn't take away anything, because you are what you are, even if they call you a sissy behind closed doors, you're still a sissy to a lot of them. You don't say "heterosexual musician" or "lesbian actress."

Right. But it really does seem to be a given that a lot of performers are straight unless they indicate otherwise. It just seems like, particularly with jazz, it is kind of a straight guys club.

It's very homophobic. A very macho kind of music to be a part of.

As a well-respected and admired interpreter of other people's songs, can you tell me something about your process of choosing material for your albums or live performances?

For this latest CD (*Shades Of Bey*), my producer sent a lot of tunes to me. Of course, I have to like them. He just happens to have the taste to send me good material. I'm one that likes to pick obscure material anyway, even though I do a lot of the American popular standards. I'm one that always looks for tunes that haven't been done by a lot of people. For *Shades Of Bey*, my producer sent me stuff by Nick Drake, who I'd never heard of, the "River Man" tune. As well as "Drume Negrita," which was a melody that I'd heard years ago, it's an Afro-Cuban folk melody.

I had no idea what he was going to send me. And then we just started sending each other tapes. He would send me tapes, and I would try to work on a little arrangement and send them back. Then one thing lead to another. We did this for about a year before we started recording. We recorded "River Man" and "Drume Negrita" first. Then we had quite a few months off before we finished the rest of the CD, because we were still waiting on getting some of the songs together. I did a lot of the arranging for some of the tunes. That's the result.

Do songwriters send songs directly to you?

They've always sent me music. Obscure and not well-known writers. I'm a songwriter, as well. We'll probably do more of my material eventually, do a CD of it. People have come to me, in the past... there's so much music.

Is there a song that you sing you wish you had written?

That could be many. There's this one song that I got from a fakebook, which was written by Richard Rodgers' daughter Mary Rodgers. It's called "Hey Love." It's from a Broadway show called *Hot Spot*, which starred Judy Holliday, I think back in the sixties. When I found the music in a fakebook I had back in the sixties, I said, "I like this title." As I started singing the melody, I just loved the chord structure and I loved the melody. I've been doing it since maybe the late sixties. I recorded it on a CD that I did when I was overseas, in Yugoslavia. I hope to do another version of it. A lot of singers that have heard it really love the tune, in fact, they want to do it. Maybe they are doing it by now.

Have you begun to select songs for your next album?

Not right now. We're really just focusing on this record (*Shades Of Bey*). It's getting a lot of attention. In the first week that it was out, it was picked by 115 stations, as the number one CD. Since that time, maybe 18 more stations have been added on. We've been moving up. We moved up in the Gavin Report to 35 from 200. It's getting a nice reaction.

After having spent a lot of time overseas, in how many languages would you consider yourself to be fluent?

I'm not fluent in any of them [laughs]. I taught four months out of the year in Austria, as a guest professor, working with singers. I know very little German. I spent seven months [performing] with my sisters in Paris. I couldn't speak the language, but I was able to pick up things. I was able to buy food. The basic stuff. Call a cab. ▼

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Keyboard sensualist Jon Nakamatsu Roll over the Beethoven

by Timothy Pfaff

It wasn't until Jon Nakamatsu launched into the second section of his Berkeley recital on November 15 — two pieces by Chopin — that I remembered why I was so eager to catch this second local appearance by the winner of the last Van Cliburn Competition. From the first measures of the C-sharp-minor Polonaise, Op. 26, No. 1, and even more in the composer's early and, if seldom-played, delectable "Grand Fantasy on Polish Airs," the pianist's unselfish delight in his own virtuosity came to the fore. That's when I remembered that, at a Nakamatsu recital, I'm having fun when he is.

Behind his best-little-boy-in-the-world platform persona is an unabashed keyboard sensualist, and it's his physical as much as his mental connection with the instrument that brings his playing alive. It's a sine qua non for great Chopin playing, and Nakamatsu made good on the promise of his superb all-Chopin second CD for Harmonia Mundi, with performances that were no less assured and alluring live. This is not to resurrect passé notions that Chopin is deficient in sound musical thought or, behind the filigree, rigorous formal design — or that good Chopin is the province of feeling rather than thinking pianists. But any pianist who doesn't revel in sheer instrumental mastery is missing the boat in Chopin, and Nakamatsu revels, tastefully but unmistakably.

The polonaise pursued a seamless arc of unerringly apt Chopin rhetoric, but it was the Grand Fantasy that found the

pianist in peak form. His supple technique — wonderfully even and sure, yet supremely relaxed — coursed through the endless filigree with seeming effortless-ness, but what distinguished his performance was his almost uncanny knack for picking out the salient inner voices in busy music. Even better, he caught the precise flavor of each of the Polish airs.

He repeated the feat even more dazzlingly at the end of his printed program, when he followed an inward-directed, supremely well-balanced and rather gravely beautiful account of Liszt's "Sonetto 104 del Petrarca" with a rippling, surging, almost uninhibitedly virtuosic ride through the "Tarantella" from that composer's *Venezia e Napoli*. The more heavy the music's figuration, the more gleeful Nakamatsu's playing becomes, and at the crest of the piece's cascade of notes, the pianist managed a little shoulder shrug that said volumes about the freedom that comes from technique as disciplined as his.

19th-century man

Although there are ample hints that his is essentially a 19th-century sensibility, Nakamatsu did some equally impressive work with two 20th-century pieces, Stravinsky's *Four Etudes*, Op. 7, and William Bolcom's *Nine Bagatelles*, the latter commissioned for the Van Cliburn. The pianist mounted an exuberant response to the Stravinsky's formidable technical challenges, dispatching the fourth etude's moto perpetuo with almost indecent panache. The Bolcom, a character piece, elicited keen responses from Nakamatsu, who mined "the ghost mazurka" for its wit,

"aimai-je un reve" for its echoes of Messiaen — and all of the bagatelles for their concision of expression.

If Nakamatsu is going to get beyond his post-competition 15 minutes of fame, it will be by capitalizing on those very virtues, and ditching the competition-bred fallacy that real pianists eat mixed grille. What two local recitals, both sponsored by the enterprising Cal Performances, have confirmed is that Beethoven and Brahms are not his fare, not that he can't take them in but that they don't nourish him. The performance of Beethoven's E-Major Sonata, Op. 109, that opened his Sunday recital was note-perfect and well-groomed, but those are hardly the distinguishing qualities of memorable Beethoven. Argument, architecture and at least an inclination to storm the heavens are.

In the noisy marketplace of today's music business, it must be harder than ever for a young artist to trust his own temperament and inclinations. If Nakamatsu can hear the roar of approval that filled Zellerbach Hall as anything but hometown boosterism (the Stanford grad hails from Mountain View), he may hear what it is about his playing that manifestly touches people. The surest way to beat the competition is to end the Competition. ▼



Jon Nakamatsu maintains an unselfish delight in his own virtuosity.

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Whitfield's Plush gig

Jim Van Buskirk

Why is it we never seem to appreciate the treasures in our very own backyard? Especially in San Francisco, we often wait for local talent to go to New York before we realize what we had all along.

If that's what it takes, fine. Wesla Whitfield just returned from New York where, in addition to performing at the 9th Annual Cabaret Convention, she premiered her one-woman show, "Life Upon the Wicked Stage" at the Kaufmann Theater. Now she's home to present this autobiographical evening at the comfortable Plush Room. This is the story of her life in which she has "left out the boring parts" and "put in interesting parts that actually happened to other people." It's quickly obvious that Whitfield is walking a fine line between sweet sincerity and tongue-in-cheek cynicism, just as she segues between inventive jazz phrasings and

cabaret performances of the American songbook.

After an appropriately titled instrumental overture of Walter Donaldson's "Did I Remember?" performed by bassist Michael Moore and Whitfield's husband/pianist/arranger Mike Greensill, Whitfield takes the stage to sing a freshly evocative "When You Wish Upon a Star."

Her short-cropped graying hair offset by her mischievously twinkling eyes, Whitfield begins to recount a version of her life. Born in Santa Maria, 130 miles north of Los Angeles, she admits to having been called stubborn, but prefers to refer to herself as "single-minded," before launching into a sophisticated interpretation of the Gershwins' "They All Laughed" and dreaming of being "On the Other Side of the Tracks."

A handful of projected slides and a few clever voice-over "interruptions" help propel her saga, like "Some People" intercut with "Life Upon the Wicked Stage." She learns the importance of songs as

stories by singing in church, and describes her mother in a costume made of white bed-sheets illuminated by a blacklight, singing a saucy "A Good Man is Hard to Find." Whitfield claims to have been a soprano when she was cast as Fiona in *Brigadoon* and "still is — but not in public," delivering an enchanting "Almost Like Being in Love." As member of the San Francisco Opera Chorus she "learned a great many things" watching porno flicks in the men's dressing room.

Whitfield loved her stint as a singing cocktail waitress in a Kurt Weill revue at the Old Spaghetti Factory. She makes rare reference to the incident which, 20 years ago, left her unable to walk, but did not deter her from her dream of singing. She believes it when she sings "Lucky to Be Me," and makes you believe it too. Slyly sliding her arm across the top of the piano, Whitfield subtly swivels in her bar chair, each tiny gesture of her hands enhancing her perfect enunciation and intelligent phrasing. Even her wry facial expressions underscore her profound respect for the lyrics of such timeless standards as "Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered," "Lost in the Stars," and "How High the Moon." After a smoky "Don't Explain," Wesla closes the perfectly-paced show with a powerfully poignant "For All We Know."

Wesla (she's finally dropped the unpronounced "i" from her name, correcting it to the spelling



Wesla Whitfield segues between inventive jazz and cabaret songs.

used by the friend of her mother's for whom she was named) may have claimed to tell the story of her life, but in her profound interpretation of these enduring songs, it is the resonances of our own that she helps us to better comprehend.

Her just-released CD, the aptly titled "High Standards," includes many of the numbers performed in the show, but as exquisitely produced as the album is, it can't quite capture the witty insouciance of Whitfield in concert. By all means pick up the disk, but under no circumstances miss this sublime evening by our home-grown national treasure. ▼

Life Upon the Wicked Stage runs through December 13. "This Can't Be Love: Songs of Rodgers and Hart" runs December 16-31. At the Plush Room, 940 Sutter Street. Reservations: (415)885-2800.

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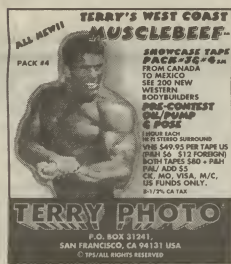
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He goes by the single, not-especially catchy name, Barnes, which hardly conjurs up either queerness or the modern musical mating ritual in which rock lets electronica explode inside it. Yet his bland cognomen belies the power and dynamism of Barnes' new album, *Loud Boy Radio* (Loud Boy Records, Venice, California; 1998). In songs ranging from amped-up techno/hip hop to down-home ballads, Barnes displays a penchant for composing catchy pop-rock tunes, then blowing them up with the latest electronic rhythms and razzmatazz. What most distinguishes the album are intelligent lyrics and Barnes' vocals, which combine the dramatics of Freddie Mercury, the passion of Eddie Vedder, the mournfulness of Morrissey, and the sweetness of Michael Stipe. ▼

— Mark Mardon

On Wednesday, Dec. 2, Barnes will perform spoken-word pieces at A Different Light Bookstore (free; 7:30pm) in the Castro. On Thursday, Dec. 3, he performs his music live at the Paradise Lounge (\$3 cover; 9pm; 308 11th St.).

OPERA

Almost the opera it could be

Peter Grimes comes up short of perfection

by Paul Thomason

Benjamin Britten's first opera, *Peter Grimes*, when performed at its best, ought to leave an audience devastated. People who experience a truly good performance should have trouble walking out of the theater, their minds incapable of dwelling on whether or not they're going to drop into Absinthe for a bite to eat on the way home. Indeed there were cheers last week at the conclusion of the San Francisco Opera's first *Grimes* in 22 years; nevertheless, I felt unmoved — a first in my long history with that remark-

markable mad scene for unaccompanied tenor, was my heart stirred. A *Grimes* that only engages you at the end is a *Grimes* without a true *Grimes*.

Best of the major singers was Alan Held as Captain Balstrode. His strong baritone voice easily dominated the stage, and he created a riveting, three-dimensional character using remarkably few words and gestures. His utter authority and identification with the role is exactly what has been missing in other productions for so much of this opera season, so his performance was especially welcomed. Deborah Riedel's Ellen Orford offered isolated moments of good singing, but

By no means was the performance terrible. It possessed a refreshing musical and visual cohesiveness. From beginning to end, it came off professionally. . . But I missed the soul of the work, the very reason a company should put on an opera in the first place.

able work.

Perhaps mine is a curmudgeonly view; certainly it is a minority one. By no means was the performance terrible. It possessed a refreshing musical and visual cohesiveness. From beginning to end, it came off professionally. Obviously everyone on stage and in the pit fully committed themselves to doing everything possible to realize Britten's intentions to the fullest.

But I missed the *soul* of the work, the very reason a company should put on an opera in the first place.

American tenor Thomas Moser made his S.F. Opera debut as *Grimes*, and he must have been gratified by the cheers that greeted his solo bow. Often, especially in the more lyric moments, his voice sounded beautiful. He sang with careful attention to phrasing, using the words and notes to create a character. But for most of the opera, I kept wondering: "Why should I care about this guy? What's the point?"

Only in the last act, in the re-

her lapses in pitch, combined with the harsh tone at the top of her soprano voice and when she sang strongly, severely uncut her effectiveness.

The numerous minor roles were almost all strongly cast. In particular, John Relyea stood out as Hobson, Tammy Jenkins and Peggy Kriha Dye as Auntie's Nieces, Stafford Dean as Swallow, Catherine Cook as Mrs. Sedley, and Matthew Lord as Bob Boles.

In *Peter Grimes*, as in *Boris Godunov* and *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*, the chorus is one of the main characters. In fact, in Britten's opera, the chorus is second only to the title character himself, since the heart of the opera is the tension between the chorus (the townspeople) and *Peter Grimes*. It would be wonderful to report that the S.F. Opera Chorus sang at the top of their form — which is considerable. Unfortunately, that was only true in the last act. Maybe it was my seat next to the wall, under the overhang, which made both the chorus and or-



Tenor Thomas Moser and soprano Deborah Riedel in Britten's *Peter Grimes*

chestra sound muffled and distressingly monochromatic for much of the evening.

Company music director Donald Runnicles conducted, and he paced the work superbly. Loud cheers greeted him when he stepped on stage at the end of the performance. Carl Toms's sets proved effective, too, especially *Grimes*'s hut in Act II.

Nostalgia buffs and collectors of operatic trivia take note: John Copley, who staged this revival with Herbert Kellner, played the non-singing role of *Grimes*'s apprentice in 1947 when *Grimes* was staged at Covent Garden, directed by Tyrone Guthrie. ▼

Performances of *Peter Grimes* continue at the War Memorial Opera House through December 13. For tickets and information call (415) 864-3330.

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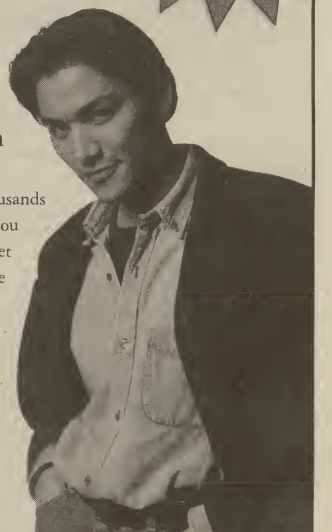
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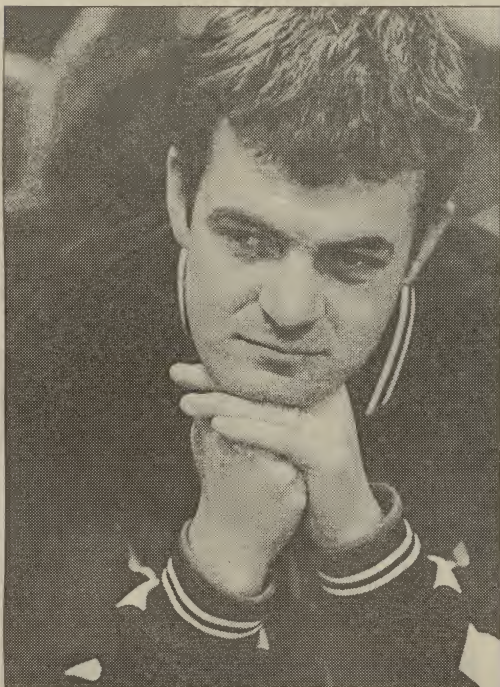
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Playwright Jonathan Harvey visits S.F. Creating beautiful things



Beautiful Thing playwright Jonathan Harvey

by Richard Dodds

Beautiful Thing, Jonathan Harvey's sweet play about two teen-age boys falling in love, is subtitled "an urban fairy tale." But the British playwright says he used the term "fairy tale" more for its gay connotations than for its implications of a story rooted in fantasy. It's a word play that can sometimes lead a director down the wrong path.

"It gets on my nerves a bit," the playwright said during a recent interview, "because I intended it to be more real. We still have to understand how difficult it is for these characters to do what they do."

The Liverpool native was in San Francisco recently with his boyfriend, Richard Foord, "to take in the sights (Haight-Ashbury today, Alcatraz tomorrow) and to offer up suggestions for the local cast and director of *Beautiful Thing* after seeing a preview performance at the New Conservatory Theatre. His notes for director Ed Decker were mostly of the fine-tuning sort, he said. "I didn't think, 'Oh, this is a nightmare. Where do we start?'"

Harvey, now 30, was a mere 23 when he wrote *Beautiful Thing*, a play that put his career on the fast-track in Britain. He's had several more plays produced in London, wrote the screenplay for the film version of *Beautiful Thing*, created a "rude and saucy" sitcom for the BBC, is working on a musical with the Pet Shop Boys, and has been introduced to the Queen. ("I was a little bit tipsy, and kept touching her," he said. "She didn't seem to mind.") Two days before he left for San Francisco, his newest play, *Guiding Star*, opened at the prestigious Royal National Theatre.

The reviews of the new play, about the ramifications on one family of a famous soccer tragedy, have been mostly positive, Harvey said. "The critics are relieved that I'm not seeing everything through rose-colored glasses."

That was the early rap on Harvey, especially after *Beautiful Thing* became a mainstream success that managed to unite gay and straight audiences and progressive and conservative critics.

"But you're never going to get 700 people a night in a West End theater without straight audiences," he said. "I don't want to play to only five queens in the front row with mustaches."

What he did want to do was create a play that was life-affirming while at the same time taking an unspoken jab at Britain's antiquated age-of-consent laws for gay males. "The rules were mostly written by conservative lawmakers who associated what they saw at boarding school after lights out with gay love," Harvey said. "I wanted a story about falling in love rather than just getting laid."

He was also rebelling against what he calls "the Merchant-Ivory version of gay love which didn't relate to my life as working class," he said. "I thought there was room for the other side of the coin."

Tapping into his own experiences growing up in Liverpool, and as a young teacher working in a rough section of South London, he crafted his tale of two teen-age boys who live next door to each other in a low-income housing project. As they deal with difficult home lives, these two mates find their friendship turning to affection and then to starry-eyed first love as the music of Mama Cass seals their kiss. "You emerge feeling," wrote the critic for the *London Independent*, "as if you've just been immersed up to the eyebrows in a vat of totally unsynthetic charm."

Harvey himself came out at 18, finding at first more sympathy from his father, a postman-turned-social worker, than from

his mother, a family-planning nurse. "At the time it was very scary," he said. "There were tears and silence, which can be worse than a big row."

Harvey realized that matters had finally improved when he and his boyfriend visited his parents' home a few years ago and saw that his mother had pushed together the two single beds in his old bedroom. "Now I think it's gone too far," he said. "My mother buys us the same things for Christmas. It isn't fair."

It was his mother who first sent young Jonathan off to a youth theater program in Liverpool. "I was a big show-off," he said, "and she wanted to channel that." When he was eight, he was cast as the coroner of Munchkinland in a production of *The Wizard of Oz*. "I was the only one in the cast who did an American accent, which showed how professional I was."

But at 14, a bad case of acne caused him to quit performing. He turned to writing, and his first play was produced at a young writers' festival when he was 17. He also won the thousand-pound top prize.

"If I've got a gift, it's in writing dialogue," Harvey said. "I'm interested in how people speak, and I think I'm quite good at observing people's souls." ▼

Beautiful Thing, "an urban fairy tale," will run at the New Conservatory Theatre through Jan. 2. Tickets are \$16 and \$20. Call 861-8972.

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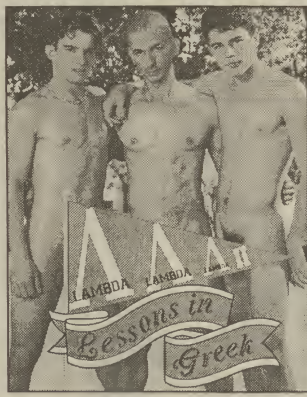
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Andrew Sullivan

◀ page 34

Undetectable, and described a difficult passage through doubt, faith, and loss. While reading, he had been flooded by memories, and at the same time he sensed in the room a resonance of shared response coming back like a wave. "Everybody in that room had been through something similar, and I've never felt those things in a public space, reading." At one point his voice had broken, as though he were near tears.

The morning after, he still seemed immersed in that mutual response.

"I think of something like last night as part of writing the book. Other gay men and women help me understand what I've written." Public feedback was the more treasured, since he composed his books in isolation. "Writing starts in loneliness," he explained, "because you have to move outside your experiences in the world to write about it." He retires from other people's voices to face himself and

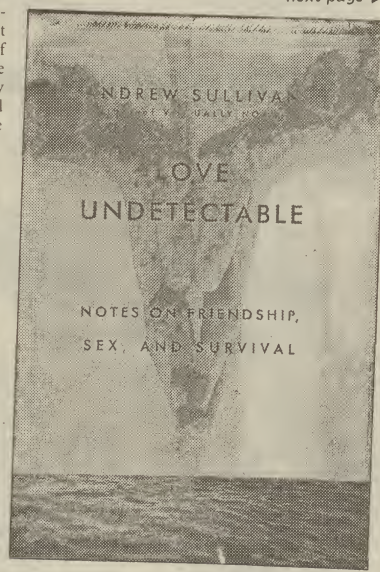
discover what he really feels and knows. "It requires a kind of active loneliness. I'm going somewhere and I'm going to come back, but I have to be by myself to figure out what I think is true or not true."

Extraordinary ordeal

Sullivan often found such solitude nearly unbearable when working on the plague passages of *Love Undetectable*. "This book was an extraordinary ordeal to write. I used to put on very loud music so that part of my mind would be occupied somewhere else."

He found it particularly difficult to write about sex. "Anyone

next page ▶



Blonde ambitions; dark passages

Meg Mackay sings Sondheim; Miya Masaoka explores troubling times

by Deborah Peifer

I've been a fan of singer-actor (and now, songwriter, but more on that later) Meg Mackay for some time, so a chance to speak with her is a rare treat. We had a chat about her current projects recently, but first I wanted to know how she started singing.

"My mother told me that I sang to her from the crib when I was eighteen months old," she begins, "but my first public performance was when I sang 'Que será, será' on a picnic table for my mom's company picnic. I was five."

Given Mackay's fondness for blonde singers (her latest CD is *Legally Blonde*, her homage to great blondes), I think it interesting that she was doing Doris Day so early in her career.

"I'm happy as a blonde. When I was a kid and looked in the mirror, I expected to see Doris Day."

After college studies in opera, Mackay moved to San Francisco, but opera jobs were not forthcoming.

"Then I was cast in *Beach Blanket Babylon*, which was some of the most fun I've ever had."

A tour in the national company of *Torch Song Trilogy* and a stint in *And What, Give up Show Biz* marked her transition to singer-actor, and meant she could finally give up her day job. Cast in



Meg Mackay

the Ethel Merman role in *Call Me Madam* at the New Conservatory Theatre Center, Mackay is "so lucky to have so much work. Ethel Merman created the genre of the big belter, and this is the second Merman role I've done for them."

Mackay is also doing a benefit with *The Phantom of the Opera* company for The National Brain

Tumor Foundation, a concert version of Sondheim's *A Little Night Music* with Mackay in the plum role of Desirée. And just in case you think Mackay isn't doing enough, she and her husband, arranger-producer Billy Philadelphia, are working on a new show, for which they will both write music and lyrics. The new show is a backstage musical about a woman desperately clinging to a career that doesn't exist. In the show, Mackay will display her talent for mimicry by performing music in the style of, among others, Mae West, Marlene Dietrich, and Marilyn Monroe.

While we're waiting for that, check out Mackay at the New Conservatory Theatre Center, and call us lucky that she chose San Francisco as her home.

Call Me Madam runs through December 20 at New Conservatory Theatre Center, 25 Van Ness at Market. Phone 861-8972. The benefit concert of *A Little Night Music* is on December 7 at the Curran Theatre. Tickets are available at the Curran box office or through BASS at 776-1999.

Miya Masaoka

During the second world war, Americans demonstrated their racism by interning thousands of

Japanese-Americans for the crime of being Japanese-Americans. Refusing to accept their country's delusion that they were disloyal, thousands of Japanese-Americans insisted on the right to serve in the U.S. Army and to fight for their country. Many of them fought in the European theatre of operations where their all Nisei unit, the 442, received more decorations than any unit of comparable size during World War II.

Performance artist and composer Miya Masaoka has more than a passing interest in that history: her father and his three brothers all served in the 442; 28 of her relatives were interned while her father and two of her uncles were wounded and one uncle killed. In *Dark Passages*, Masaoka uses original music, film, video, slides, actors, and survivors to tell the story of American racism at its ugliest.

"My mother told me stories of life in the camps, stories her friends told her about Crystal City." Although none of Masaoka's relatives were in Crystal City, "Crystal City became a metaphor for secrets of the past. This was where the Buddhist priests were interned and also the Japanese Peruvians."

Yes, it's true. The government

of the United States went to Peru and kidnapped Japanese Peruvians to trade to Japan for white American prisoners of war.

"That was against the Geneva Convention, but the U.S. did it anyway. After the war, Peru would not let the Japanese Peruvians return, but they were also told they couldn't stay in the United States because they were considered illegal aliens."

The fact that the illegality was solely on the side of the government was not considered important. Libia Yamamoto, one of the kidnapped Japanese-Peruvians, tells her story in *Dark Passages*. The docu-torio is more than just spoken word:

"There is a lot of visual stuff going on in the piece and the music is very fine, with much of it based on the sounds of temple bells and Buddhist chanting. There is a Buddhist theme running through the piece, the idea that spirituality is a way to get through the passages in people's lives."

Dark Passages plays one night only, December 9 at 7:30 p.m., at the Asian Art Museum, Golden Gate Park. Tickets are \$10, and are available at the door. ▼

If you have gossip, inquiries or information of a performative nature, send them to peifer@aol.com or via snail mail to the B.A.R.

Andrew Sullivan

◀ previous page

can write a lurid tale of adventure. It's more difficult to write about it really honestly and to capture the complexity of need and difficulty." Yet such exposure was essential if sex was to be integrated into his full humanity. "Integration is what it's about. And what I'm trying to say in this book is that the plague did that."

Sullivan contends that the plague not only integrated gays into society but integrated us internally. "Isn't that what we did as a community? We were all in it together. The dead and alive were part of each other. And now those of us who are still alive are up again breathing, and what are we going to do with that?"

The phone rang, and although Sullivan answered briefly, he seemed less introspective when he returned to the interview. He now spoke of the hostility his work sometimes provokes. When it was pointed out that his recent piece on Clinton in the *Advocate* seemed angry, he replied, "I'm not an angry person. I never have been. On the other hand, when you're subjected to a huge amount of rage over a long period of time, it's hurtful — it's extremely wounding — and every now and again you do want to hit back."

He found the anger his work excites puzzling since it often comes from people who have either not read him or who, in his view, willfully misunderstand him. "For example, this Sex Panic stuff. Suddenly, I'm a neo-Puritan, having never written a single sentence that could put me in that camp."

Sullivan couldn't keep this show of innocence forever. When the interviewer pointed out that some of his writing went out of its

way to provoke, he gave a mischievous grin and acknowledged, "I do have an edge, and every now and again it emerges." Soberly he added, "But I struggle with it."

Odd job

He admitted he doesn't mind making enemies. "I actually have a bizarre comfort zone in being the odd person out. And some people don't. I think that's one reason I've always had this weird hostility to Clinton. Because he's the opposite. I think his only comfort zone is when he's got complete unanimity and support, and I think that's a very dangerous place to be in, because it makes you amorphous, like a chameleon."

Again the phone rang, and someone was now downstairs to carry Sullivan to his next appointment. He continued the interview as he washed up and made sure he had his keys. By now the conversation had turned to his youth. He was born and reared in England and did not visit this country until he was twenty. He seemed a little defensive when told his speech sounded English. "I'm an immigrant, a classic immigrant," he declared. "It's not like I have a foot left over there. I'm quintessentially American in the sense that I'm remaking myself and moving on."

Remaking oneself is an understatement when one has virtually returned from the dead. As Sullivan left his room for the world outside and descended in the elevator, he leaned against a rail and confided, "I'm just glad to be here." He seemed slightly dazed as he walked out into the sunlight, but gave a warm smile to a woman who was awaiting him. "One day at a time," he intoned, and he passed to his next appointment. ▼

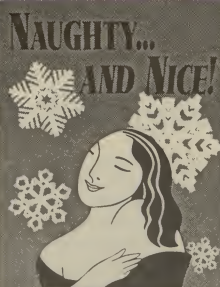
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A romp with Antony & Cleopatra

Berkeley Rep does right by the Bard

by Richard Dodds

Antony and Cleopatra seems to bring out the barbs.

"Tallulah Bankhead barged down the Nile last night as Cleopatra and sank," wrote Broadway critic John Mason Brown, creating one of the most famous put-downs in theater criticism. In London, Edith Evans' variation on the Egyptian queen was pictured as "a Lady Bracknell cruelly starved of cucumber sandwiches," while Vivien Leigh was said to "pick at the part with the daintiness of a debutante called upon to dismember a stag."

Just last month in London, Nicholas de Jongh created a bit of a stir in the *Evening Standard* for penning the most caustic line about the much-maligned new production of *Antony and Cleopatra* at the National Theatre. Helen Mirren and Alan Rickman, he wrote, "rose to erotic ardour last night with little more enthusiasm than a pair of glumly non-mating pandas at London Zoo."

The play and its principal parts can obviously be a minefield, but at Berkeley Rep, guest director Lisa Peterson has navigated the danger with imaginative bravado. Employing a stripped-down approach that at first looks worryingly bare, the production develops its own aura that focuses its opulence on the emotions and

personalities of the characters. Inventive devices enhance Rachel Hauck's set, the lighting by Christopher Akerlind is dramatic, and the musical accompaniment by Thaddeus Pinkston grows lush, but ultimately the production succeeds because it treats the play as it was originally intended: as an entertainment.

Humor is abundant in this staging, most of it derived from what Shakespeare wrote, but with occasional fillips provided by the multi-tasking cast of seven. So too are the bombastic passions that audiences of nearly 400 years ago expected. But we also get under the skin of the title characters, who are here illuminated as great figures humbled by very human needs and failings. The contemporary resonance is unavoidable.

Joseph Siravo's robust performance as Antony suggests a pompous blowhard who behaves like a giddy teen when he is with his beloved, while Kandis Chappell emphasizes the insecure, self-absorbed side of Cleopatra. These are entertaining performances that skip much of the pretensions associated with Shakespeare, though sometimes at the cost of the verbal glory.

Siravo and Chappell briefly show up as other characters, but the other five members of the cast regularly and impressively change roles (and bits of costumes in Joyce Kim Lee's unpredictable



Kandis Chappell and Joseph Siravo in *Antony and Cleopatra*

mostly modern-dress approach). Jonathan Haugen gets his prime showcase as Caesar, Tamu Gray as Cleopatra's servant Charmian, Elaine Tse as Antony's wife Octavia, Jack Davidson as Antony's comrade Enobarbus, and Harry Waters Jr. as the Roman ruler Lepidus.

Trimmed down to three hours, the production can still feel long-

winded in the second act. But this is an accessible, intriguing variation on a play that has frequently foundered. No barbs are needed for this outing with the Bard. ▼

Antony and Cleopatra will run at Berkeley Rep through Jan. 8. Tickets are \$34.50 and \$45. Call 510-845-4700.

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PERFORMANCE ART

City maps



Performance artist Denise Uyehara will present a new multidisciplinary piece, *Maps of City & Body*, at the Asian Art Museum in commemoration of World AIDS Day, on Sunday, November 29 at 2 p.m. Uyehara says she explores what it means to be a woman, an Asian American, a bisexual, and a human being, though not necessarily in that order. Her performance will take place against the backdrop of *Hiroshage: Great Japanese Prints from the James A. Michener Collection* at the Asian Art. Admission to the museum is \$7. For information, call 379-8801. ▼

TELEVISION

A Starr is born

by Victoria A. Brownworth

Ah, TV. The turkeys were dressed early this year for Thanksgiving in the Beltway — making us glad we're vegetarians.

The Lewinsky-Tripp tapes debuted, and contrary to popular belief, despite all the backstabbing, tears and gnashing (or was that nosing?) of teeth, Aaron Spelling had nothing to do with it. The tapes reminded us of *Dynasty*, except without the glamour. Sort of a cable-access version with a very young and trashier Joan Collins and Linda Evans with a glandular problem and a really bad colorist. We laughed, we cried (well, Monica cried), we changed the channel. Perhaps CNN's Wolf Blitzer put it best: "There's a lot of material here for *Saturday Night Live*." (He would know.) No doubt Molly Shannon (whose Monica impression actually makes us understand what Bill saw in her) and John Goodman (whose Tripp is absolutely eerie) can expect to wring some more belly laughs (emphasis on the belly) from that sick tale.

Following on the (round) heels of the Tripp tapes came more sound and fury signifying nothing. The (yawn) opening of the impeachment hearings was like an infomercial for McCarthyism, but without the glamour. (Yes, it is a trend.) The Democrats — notably Barney Frank (Mass.), John Conyers (Mich.) and Maxine Waters (Calif.) — provided the only emotional moments. Chair Henry Hyde (R-Ill.) looked — and sounded — more con-

fused than usual.

In best performance by a cyborg, Kenneth Starr proved Hannah Arendt's theories about the banality of evil and that he could have a future on UPN. Exchanges between Starr and Clinton attorney David Kendall may also serve to invigorate the flagging ratings of government conspiracy shows like *The X-Files*. Anyone who didn't believe in that "vast Right Wing conspiracy" first alluded to by Hillary Clinton on the *Today* show back in January didn't watch till the credits rolled. The Republicans gave Starr a standing ovation at the end of his testimony while Hyde, like a White House intern after a first date, gushed: "Thank you for a wonderful day." (Hello? Since when are impeachment proceedings a good thing?) As Karen on *Will & Grace* might say: Bipartisanship be damned! We say: They pre-empted *One Life to Live* for this?

The most disturbing element of the impeachment hearings (no, not the lack of glamour)? The tidbit dropped by Starr that he had found *no evidence of high crimes, misdemeanors or any other offenses* attributable to the President related to Whitewater, Filegate or Travelgate went largely unreported on network news. Perhaps, Frank suggested, it was all about sex after all. And perhaps the networks aren't all run by a liberal queer agenda, as the Christian Coalition keeps maintaining.

After the tapes and the hearings, the pathetic step-child of the impeachment debacle got her TV moment on CBS's *Inside Edition*. Paula Jones granted her first in-depth (well, TV tabloid) interview

with Deborah Norville (who used to do serious news, once upon a time). But Norville's hard-hitting (sic) questions sent Jones sobbing from the room. Next stop: *The Roseanne Show*. Title this episode *Trailerpark Trollops' Triumph*.

This entire (melo)drama is scheduled to wrap by Christmas, with few surprises. Stay tuned. Though QVC might be more interesting.

Rodman's nuptials, etc.

For those seeking glamour on the small screen, or what passes for it these days, nearly every TV tabloid is parading tidbits on the Las Vegas nuptials

of gender-bender NBA (remember the NBA?) star Dennis Rodman and model-cum-TV personality Tara "Call-me-Carmen-Electra" Patrick. No info on the wedding dress, hair-style or make-up. Oh — and there wasn't any info on what Electra wore either.

Just in case you've been on Mir or were abducted by aliens and haven't gotten enough of Ellen and Anne, NBC's *Access Hollywood* did an in-depth (well, tabloid) interview with the couple on their 18-month anniversary (what's the gift for this, videotape?). Sexy Latina host Giselle Fernandez (who used to do serious news, once upon a time, including interviewing Castro) elicited tales of distress from the

tow-headed twosome ("People hate us," wept Ellen, "But God, Anne and her love have got me through this.") As for whether Anne's career has been impacted by coming out, Ellen noted that audiences still believed Anne was a credible straight girl: "She's not just getting roles as a UPS girl." Unlike Ellen, whose bidet-bound career may have her delivering packages in 90210 before long.

Of course there may be an opening for a celebrity spokesdyke at GLAAD, though we think her haircut is a little too good for that job.

Tears from Ellen and sharp retorts from Anne lead us to be-

lieve that Ellen may wear the pants but Anne is definitely on top. Is it just us or do Ellen and Anne seem like a smarter (pardon the oxymoron) dyke version of Bob and Rod Jackson-Paris?

A crushed Finch

Speaking of blondes, David Spade gave a fabu performance on NBC's *Just Shoot Me* last week (or was it this week? This show is on so many times a week, it's like it's already in syndication.). Spade's Finch was crushed out on a Blush model (again) who was crushed out on Mia (Laura San Giacomo). In an effort to demonstrate his theory that "all women are just two drinks away from a one-on-one adventure," Finch attempts to

fix the two up. The results were hilarious. The episode poked satiric and quite adult fun at the het male obsession with two chicks in bed. Possibly the best send-up of this tiresome aspect of real life ever seen on small screen or big (as if size matters).

On the serious side, ABC's *20/20* tackled vitals this week. Once financial magic for investors providing quick money for people dying to make a killing, viatical settlements are becoming bad investments (to which we say: "thank God"). But the downside for the post-cocktail generation is it puts those who outlive expectations in an uncomfortable situation. One PWA interviewed for the story noted he was getting unpleasant birthday cards from angry investors as well as phone calls requesting his medical status, asking all but: "Why aren't you dead yet?" *20/20* advises: Make sure the viatical company keeps your identity absolutely secret.

Finally, ABC's *NYPD Blue* locked itself another string of Emmys over the last few weeks with some of the best writing, acting and directing (by Donna Desret Hearts Deitch) ever on a show consistently well-written and well-acted. The last days of Bobby Simone (Jimmy Smits) have been gut-wrenching (though we acknowledge many of our friends will miss those nude butt shots most). Little Ricky Schroeder takes over for Smits next episode.

Sure. ▼

Junkies and dolls

by Gregg Shapiro

More than a few things have changed in the almost ten years since Cowboy Junkies first came to our attention via *The Trinity Sessions*, their amazing major-label debut disc. The Cowboy Junkies now record for Geffen, not RCA. Also, the music world (including radio, where they made quite an impression with their re-working of Lou Reed's "Sweet Jane") has changed considerably.

The Cowboy Junkies sound like they're trying to keep abreast of things on their latest release, *Miles From Home* (Geffen). Their unique sound, which had the potential to get trampled by louder, more aggressive bands that have come along since their inception, has been bolstered and toughened (the rhythmic title track, "New Dawn Coming," "Hollow As A Bone") without sacrificing their trademark dreamy sound ("Blue Guitar," "Darkling Days," "No Birds Today," "Those Final Feet").

The Goo Goo Dolls are a good example of one of those louder bands. Just listen to their latest, *Dizzy Up The Girl* (Reprise) for proof. The Goo Goo Dolls make rocking melodic pop (the current single "Slide," "Broadway," "Bullet Proof"), as well as the occasional ballad ("Iris," "Black Balloon," "Acoustic #3") that keeps them in the public eye (and ear). It doesn't hurt their appeal that lead singer John Rzeznik is cute and that they have good taste in guest musicians (the also-cute Tommy Keene).



John Rzeznik of the Goo Goo Dolls

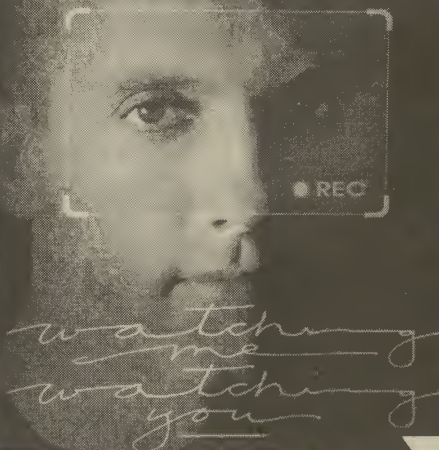
Cracker came into being after Camper Van Beethoven ceased to exist. Like Cowboy Junkies and Goo Goo Dolls, Cracker has also experienced some commercial success. *Gentleman's Blues* (Virgin) should continue that trend. Also, like Cowboy Junkies' lead singer Margo Timmins and Goo Goo Dolls' John Rzeznik (who does a majority of the band's lead vocals), Cracker's David Lowery has a distinctive, easily recognizable voice, which instantly allows the listener to identify a song as one of theirs. The sixteen tracks on *Gentleman's Blues* are no exception. What is exceptional about the songs is their maturity. After being a band for most of the '90s, Cracker has released their most well-rounded album. Songs such as "Seven Days," "Lullabye," "The Good Life," "Trials & Tribulations," and "Hallelujah" best illustrate what I'm talking about. Also, the hidden track (24) is worth finding. ▼

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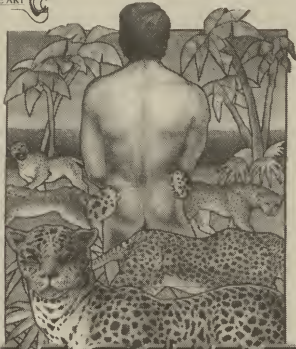
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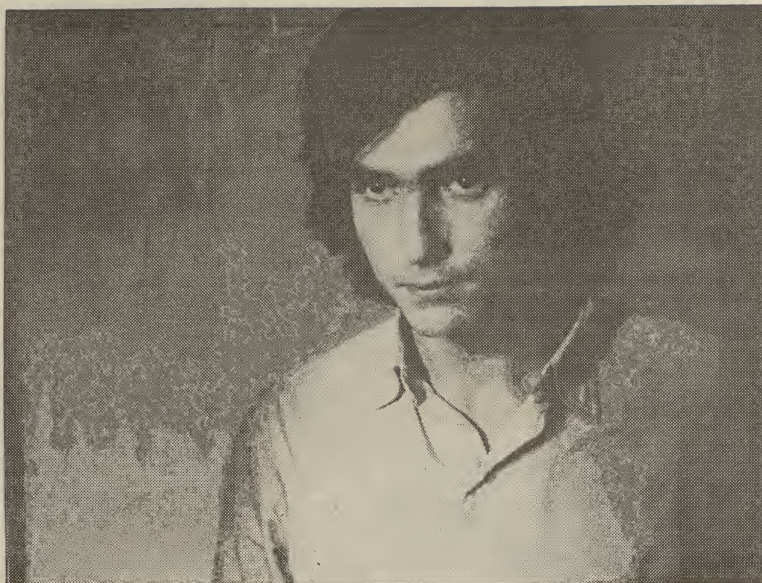
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A scene from Robert Bresson's *Four Nights of a Dreamer*

Robert Bresson

◀ Arts cover

based on a Diderot novel, with dialogue — always difficult for the visually minded Bresson — by Jean Cocteau. Here we see the seeds of his later style. When Hélène (the glorious Maria Casarès) discovers her lover is bored with her, she exacts a cruel revenge, luring him into a romance and marriage to a woman she later tells him is a prostitute. Cocteau's dialogue has its own poetry — Hélène's lover says he's glad he's "spared the ghastly convalescence of a waning love" — but the film is clearly Bresson's. The characters move through the melodrama with a kind of icy calm that would evolve in subsequent films into an even more evocatively spare, monotonal style.

The director's preoccupation — some would say obsession — with spirituality and transcendence is evident in his next film, the justly revered *Diary of a Country Priest* (1951). From the beginning, Bresson tried to delineate an interior world in part by mixing dialogue with voiceovers. Here he uses the device of the diary kept by the tragic title character, a naive young vicar whose attempts to bring salvation to an insular, vicious French village trigger his destruction and, perhaps, salvation, if we judge from his final words: "All is grace." Here Bresson's ability to conjure profound emotions out of amateur actors and an elliptical narrative reaches an early peak; especially noteworthy is a wrenching sequence where the vicar tries to save a bitter, aging countess.

Homoerotic tension

Bresson's most famous, and to some his best, film is *A Man Escaped* (1956). Like its hero, Fontaine (François Leterrier), Bresson spent time as a prisoner of war, and this may account for some of the film's intensity. The director's sometimes maddening methods — omitting important plot points, disorienting the viewer with shots of body parts — have brought charges of a lack of suspense, and a look at the script alone might support this. But Bresson gets enormous tension out of the excruciating details of confinement and attempted escape. The mounting effect of these details — Fontaine's methodical unraveling and rework-

ing of clothing into ropes and mattress springs into hooks, the pitiless marches through the prison yard — creates a virtual dream state and a sense of anxiety in the viewer because, in spite of the detail, it's not clear Fontaine will escape. Less noticed by critics is the sweet, almost homoerotic bonding between Fontaine and his 16-year-old cellmate and redeemer, Jost.

With *A Man Escaped* Bresson perfected his use of untrained players whose line readings are seemingly blank, monotonal. This has the paradoxical effect of generating an extreme emotional response as the audience is forced to locate the emotions in the faces of the director's "models," who are "being" rather than "seeming," in Bresson's words. The narrative corollary to this is the effort the viewer must put into fleshing out events and plot developments that the increasingly single-minded Bresson refuses to elucidate.

Based on Dostoevsky, *Pickpocket* (1959), like several of the films, opens with a shot of hands; and again like some of the others, there's a voiceover mingled with dialogue to flesh out a hidden world. This world belongs to Michel, an alienated young man compelled to steal, events that Bresson's camera describes in loving detail. One of the film's most evocative sequences occurs when Michel meets a more sophisticated thief who shows him some new tricks. Their bond, again, has homoerotic resonances; with the scene's rapid cuts, close-ups of hands moving in and out of each other's jackets, there's a palpable sense of pleasure exchanged. The ending of this film — which Paul Schrader copied verbatim for *American Gigolo* — shows the kind of emotional payoff Bresson conjures from his supposedly emotionless players. The rough kisses between Michel and his steadfast neighbor Jane separated by prison bars is all the more powerful for its rarity as a point at which two desolate souls merge.

Unsettling themes

Bresson's films were often controversial, and none more so than *Mouchette* (1966), banned in some quarters as an incitement to teenage suicide. The title character is a 14-year-old girl living in the same kind of spiritual confinement as many a Bresson hero. The director typically avoids showing overt violence; *Mouchette's* rape by a local

drunkard is the more harrowing because we only see the events leading up to it and the aftermath. The director's provocative idea of transcendence is unsettlingly evident in the film's extraordinary ending.

Une Femme Douce (*A Gentle Woman*, 1969) was Bresson's first film in color, and also one of the few starring a "model" who would go on to become an "actor" — Dominique Sanda. His skill in creating a sense of an inner world very different from the outer one is brilliantly evident in this story of an increasingly impossible relationship between a pawnbroker and his wife. Typically, Bresson drains the drama from the start; the film begins at the end, with the wife's suicide. But in reconstructing their life together through a series of flashbacks, he explores to grim effect the unbridgeable gulf between them and, by extension, between all of us.

Lancelot du Lac (*Lancelot*, 1974) was a pet project for Bresson, a period drama based on the story of King Arthur's Knights of the Round Table and the search for the holy grail. The grail, though, is the least of the matters here. Internecine fights, failed tournaments, bloody ambushes are interwoven with long philosophical dialogue sequences. Bresson's pessimism pervades the film, but his formal sleight-of-hand makes scenes like the joust come to life through a seemingly impossible strategy — shooting most of it at the level of the horses' legs. The director's penchant for beautiful male faces is also manifest in the saintly Gawain (Humbert Balsan).

Bresson's last film, *L'Argent* (*Money*, 1983), based on Tolstoy, describes a world of corruption in its story of a basically innocent young man, Yvon (Christian Patey), sucked into a vortex of crime. The plot sounds like classic film noir, but this is a color, often brightly lit, almost documentary examination of the mysterious forces — predestination, in Bresson's Jansenist religious view — that can at once preempt lives and offer them that elusive state of grace.

A retrospective of the films of French director Robert Bresson runs from Friday, Nov. 27 through Sunday, Dec. 20 at the Pacific Film Archive at the U.C. Berkeley Art Museum, 2625 Durant Ave., Berkeley.

COVER STORY

Joan Crawford

◀ Arts cover

right for her child was born.

The next year, Crawford had her last hit at MGM, again directed by Cukor. In 1941's *A Woman's Face*, she is the horribly scarred leader of a blackmail ring. She is not a mother, but her relationship with a child provides the dramatic conflict in the story. Although her appearance is transformed by plastic surgeon Melvyn Douglas, Crawford cannot give up her life of crime. In love with Conrad Veidt, she is used by him to infiltrate the home of his wealthy father and becomes his nephew's governess. Under Veidt's influence, she is supposed to murder the boy. At the last minute, her maternal instincts take over and she saves the child's life, then murders Veidt when he tries to kill him. Naturally, she is acquitted. This was not the last time Joan would kill for a child.

Remarkable mix

In 1945, now at Warner Bros. after nearly two decades at MGM, Crawford landed her Oscar-winning comeback role as one of the screen's noblest mothers, *Mildred Pierce*. In it, she loses one daughter to pneumonia and is blind to the faults of the surviving one, Veda (Ann Blyth), who sets a new standard for selfish bitchiness. This remarkable mix of noir mystery and melodrama is even more fascinating in light of Christina's allegations against Joan, made, it should be noted, after Crawford's death and after learning she had been disinherited.

As Mildred, Joan brings self-sacrifice to a new pinnacle, but at one point, infuriated with Veda's abuse, she slaps her, a scene that Joan reportedly dreaded doing. (Blyth has stated that Crawford could not have been lovelier to her.) By now Crawford had adopted a second child, son Christopher. Two more daughters would soon follow.

With only one exception, the mother-daughter relationship in *Mildred Pierce* would set the tone for Crawford's future forays into movie maternity. Two years later, in *Possessed*, she plays a step-mother bent on winning over her charges, who believe she had been having an affair with their father (Raymond Massey) while their invalid mother was still alive.



Michael Cameron Benbrook in *Christmas with the Crawfords*

When the selfish cad whom Joan really loves (Van Heflin) begins seducing her step-daughter (Geraldine Brooks), the desperate Crawford tries to stop him and, suffering a mental breakdown, shoots him to death, but saves the girl from a dreadful fate. Doesn't get much nobler than that.

Although cast in more mature roles, Crawford avoided playing actual mothers throughout the 1950s. Instead, she occasionally played mother-substitutes. In 1950's *Harriet Craig*, she takes a young cousin under her wing, but soon reveals herself as houseproud, horribly controlling, and vicious, one of the few times Crawford played a completely unsympathetic part. The contrast with *Mildred Pierce* is fascinating, especially since Joan is effective in both roles.

She donned the cloak of noble semi-motherhood again in the remarkable and prescient *The Story of Esther Costello* (1957). Crawford is a rich naturalized American who returns to the small, poor Irish village of her birth. She meets a young girl (Heather Sears) who suffers from psychosomatic blindness, deafness, and speechlessness. Joan becomes her guardian and arranges for the child to get the help she needs. As young Esther recovers under Crawford's loving, patient, and generous care, she becomes a media darling and is soon the center of a huge televangelical money-raising organization, spearheaded by Joan's estranged, unethical husband (Rosanno Brazzi). When Joan discovers what he did to Esther, she makes



Joan Crawford avoided playing mother roles until late in her career.

the ultimate sacrifice to avenge her ward, killing him and herself.

Death and axes

Following her historic and hugely successful teaming with arch-rival Bette Davis in 1962's *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?*, Joan took on two more mother roles, albeit in cheaply-done films. In the first, 1964's *Straight Jacket*, she plays a convicted ax-murderess

(I'm not making this up) who is paroled after many years in jail. She goes to live with her daughter (Diane Baker), and soon enough, dead bodies turn up, all axed to death. Well, despite how it looks, poor Joan is not the killer this time. One guess as to who's behind the plot to send Momma back to the big house or otherwise do her in.

In 1968, Joan went to England for *Berserk*. As a circus-owner and

ringmaster, the 64-year-old legend's still shapely legs drew rave reviews from *Time*, but the film was correctly dismissed as another campy horror flick. Judy Geeson played her daughter. The cast included television's hunky Ty Hardin as Joan's much, much younger love interest, and Diana Dors, Britain's tacky answer to Marilyn Monroe and Crawford's romantic rival. Dead bodies begin piling up under the big top and the killer is revealed to be none other than... Poor Joan, still plagued by neurotic and ungrateful children.

By now, Crawford's astonishing career, which started in silents in 1925, was drawing to an ignominious conclusion. In her last movie, the abominable (and unintentionally hilarious) *Trog* (1970), she is a scientist who discovers the evolutionary Missing Link between humans and apes. (I wish I were kidding.) Although most of her natural screen offspring had been unworthy of her, Joan's maternal instincts remain undiminished. She is compelled to teach Trog how to be more human and protect him from exploiters. (A scene of Joan playing ball with her charge, instructing him to "Fetch, Trog," is beyond description.) Right to the end, in reel life Crawford was concerned about those weaker than she.

(In Bette Davis' last film, *The Wicked Stepmother*, she played the title role. On the fireplace mantle in their home, her step-children kept a photograph of their late, adored natural mother — none other than Joan Crawford.) ▼

Christmas with the Crawfords plays the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre through January 9, 1999. For tickets, call 621-5455.



Joan Crawford in *Letty Lynton*, 1932



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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Mark Mardon



Electronic sound artist Pamela Z

The body electronic

When the story of pop music in the 1990s is written, the decade will be divided roughly in half, the first part dominated by electric guitars, the second part by synthesizers. Out went grunge rock; in came electronica.

Just as rock encompasses myriad ideas and expressions, so electronica spans universes. Indeed, it steadily engulfs rock and everything else, its monstrous appetite for sampling and distorting insatiable. In the process, alien ideas emerge like new species, most of them with short life spans, but some with potential to survive the inevitable mass die-off.

All music forms at one time were experimental, so the oft-employed phrase "experimental music" is not as progressive as it might sound. It's the same as "roots," but roots just beginning to sprout. Like a river, electronica both flows from the past — Eno being the fountainhead — and across that famous bridge to the next century.

Here in the Bay Area, we're blessed (some would say cursed) with a huge community of experimental musicians, most of them working in one way or another with electronic sound samplers and synthesizers. Recently I heard some of the best at Yerba Buena Center, the highlight (for me) being Pamela Z guesting with Bang on a Can All-Stars.

Now you, too, have the chance to hear this remarkable walking, talking, singing, electronic marvel. Pamela Z turns her whole body into an instrument, merely waving her arms around the metal MIDI nodules poking from her skull cap to create waves of distorted sounds. Any other musician donning such futuristic bodywear might be able to create noise, but only a gifted artist can transform technology into art. This, Pamela Z does with apparent ease, as though she were plugged ecstatically into the cosmos. ▼

Pamela Z performs *Parts of Speech* at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, December 1 at Theater Artaud, 450 Florida Street. The work employs voice, live electronic sound processing, sampled speech fragments, found text, and projected still and moving images. Pamela Z appears as narrator, news commentator, storyteller, and cantor in this word ritual. The performance is a benefit for The LAB, an art/performance space in the Mission of considerable importance to the queer arts community. \$25 (includes gala champagne reception). Reservations: 621-7797.

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Brady Street Theater
El Niño and friends present *Dia de Los Vivos II*, a benefit and celebration of life. Five days of performances, culminating on World AIDS Day (12/1). Featuring Bay Area actors and dancers, including Luis Oropeza, Arturo Fernandez, Yannis Adoniou (Lines Contemporary Ballet), Labayen Dance/SF, ODC San Francisco, Down River, Peter M.O. Kadyk (formerly of Contraband), and more. \$10-\$500 (sliding). 8pm. 60 Brady St. Reservations: 558-9355. Webcast: www.acetv.com/elniño

Lorraine Hansberry Theatre

"Christmas with the Crawfords," presented by Artfull Circle Theatre. A musical romp with Joan Crawford and her children during the legendary Christmas Eve radio broadcast from their home in glamorous Brentwood. Created by Richard Winchester, written by Wayne Buidens and Mark Sargent, and restaged by Danny Schele. Starring Michael Cameron Benbrook as Joan Crawford. \$20. 8pm & 10pm. Thru 1/9/99. 620 Sutter St. Reservations: 621-5455.

Yerba Buena Center
ODC/San Francisco presents a Bay Area holiday tradition, "The Velveteen Rabbit," a dance/theater production based on the classic children's tale about a stuffed velveteen rabbit that becomes real through the love of a little boy. Eric Geiger dances the bunny role. Set to the orchestral music of Benjamin Britten. Great for kids age 4 & up. \$9-\$20-\$28. 2pm (times vary other days). Weekends thru 12/12. 700 Howard St. (at Third). 978-ARTS.

Josie's

Comedian Marga Gomez gags up "The Same Old Shit," her classic, crowd-pleasing bits from seven years of Josie's gigs. Robin Williams termed her "a lesbian Lenny Bruce." \$15. 8pm (also Sat. @ 8pm & 10pm, Sun. @ 6pm & 10pm). 3583 16th St. (at Market). 861-5079.

Studio @ Rhino

"The P.A. Cooley Holiday Special" spreads queer holiday glee in an evening of sketch comedy and backstage hi-jinx. Directed & co-written by Sean Owens. With P.A. Cooley, Paul Tena, Shari McKoy, Libby Cox, Josh Truett, Tara Blau, "Drew Todd," and Doug Ireland, plus special guests. \$12. 8:30pm. Thru 12/19. The Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. Reservations: 861-5079.

MCT

5th of July, Lanford Wilson's 1979 play about the reunion of a non-traditional family over a 4th of July weekend. Directed by Russell Kaltschmidt. \$10 advance; \$15 door. 8pm. Also on 11/28. Metropolitan Community Theatre, 150 Eureka St. (btwn. 18th & 19th). Reservations: 863-4434.

SF Art Commission Gallery

Continuing exhibit, "Harvey Milk: Second Sight," curated by Bob Kelley, featuring im-

ages from the Harvey Milk/Scott Smith Archives. Free. Thru 12/19. Veterans Building, 401 Van Ness Ave. (at McAllister). Info: 252-2568, or e-mail sfac-gallery@telis.org.

New Conservatory Theatre Center

"From the Hip," a play tracing the journey of Sissy and Sassy Sheraton, Siamese Twins who are talented 1950s songbirds pursuing dreams of stardom. 8pm. \$20 Fridays & Saturdays (\$16 for Thursdays and Sunday matinees). Thru 1/16/99. 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market), lower lobby. Tix/info: 861-8972.

Theatre Rhinoceros

"Valsetz," featuring June Stoddard and Claudia Rosa in a story of a hard-driving lesbian Hollywood producer whose car breaks down in front of an elderly widow's home in Valsetz, Oregon (Population: one). Preceded by "Industry Standards," three short comedies (by Robert Reinhardt, Doug Holsclaw, and Charles Busch and Kenneth Elliott) about men in the Arts, starring Brian Yates and Robert Mackey. \$12-\$19. Thru 12/5. 2926 16th St. Reservations: 861-5079.

{four walls}

"Get Away From Me...and other works on paper," a solo exhibition by artist Timothy B. Buckwalter. A survey of images, phrases, and ideas from joke books, pamphlets, men's magazines, novels, music lyrics and other sources, rearticulated in a personal post-pop idiom. Free. 7-10pm. 3160-A 16th St. Show runs thru 12/19.

Marines Memorial Theatre

Preview: "Christmas Cavalcade," a musical for the holidays. Blends classic favorites with comic rock and pop novelties. \$19. 2pm & 8pm (also 11/28 @ 2, 5, & 8pm, 11/29 @ 2 & 5pm, and 11/30 @ 8pm). 609 Sutter (at Mason). 771-6900.

28t

ACT @ Geary Theater

Preview: American Conservatory Theater presents "A Christmas Carol," adapted from the Charles Dickens classic. \$11-\$35. 7:30pm. Thru 12/1 (regular run: 12-2-

12/27). 415 Geary St. Tix: 749-2228. Web: www.act-sfbay.org

New Conservatory Theatre Center

"Beautiful Thing," a heartfelt story of young love triumphant against all odds, set in south-east London in 1993. Written by Jonathan Harvey, directed by Ed Decker. With Jamie Marks and Nathan Wheeler as two teenage boys who risk everything for happiness. \$20. 8pm. Thru 1/2/1999. 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market). 861-8972.

174 King St. @ 3rd

"Futura," the Latino dance club, presents a live performance by Sound Mex/BMG recording artists Amor y Pasion, with Mexican-born sisters Diana and Dalia Muñoz singing a blend of romantic cumbias, dance ballads, and fiery rancheros, with occasional injections of flamenco, tropical, and pop. Plus DJs Raymundo and Rubin. \$10. 21+ w/d. 10pm-3am.

Kimo's Showroom

"Fauxgirls," the all-different female impersonation revue hosted by Miss Gay San Francisco 25, Marlena Phoenix. Two shows (each different), followed by open mic drag show. 1st show at 10pm. \$8 cover (includes both shows).

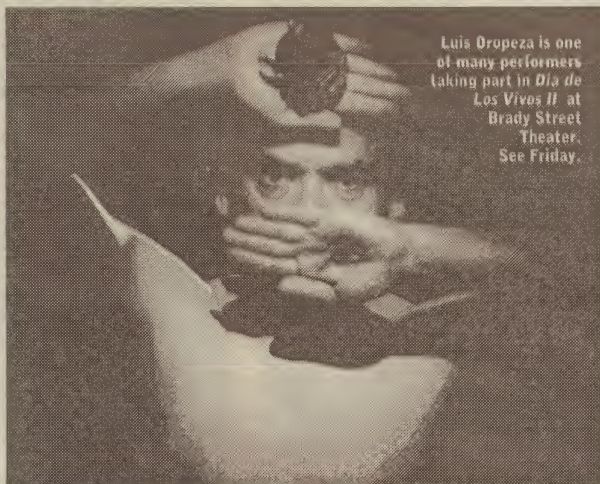
Café Asia

"Club Freedom," a mix teen and young adult dance club. DJ Jack Rojo spins latest hits, high energy, hip-hop and freestyle. Experience the freedom: no alcohol, no drugs, no weapons, no attitude. \$5 (\$3 w/student ID). 6pm-midnight every Saturday. 220 Turk St. (at Jones). Info: 440-4329.

29yn

St. Mary's Cathedral

"Thank God, I'm Still Here!" an organ recital by David Dehner, performing Bach's Toccata and Fuge and other selections. Dehner says: "I've been fortunate to survive AIDS for over 10 years now, and this is my way of celebrating that fact." Free. 3:30pm. Gough and Geary.



Luis Oropeza is one of many performers taking part in *Dia de Los Vivos II* at Brady Street Theater. See Friday.

Choreographer Scott Wells presents *Wrestling With Affection*, dances for men. See Thursday.

The Justice League

"United Nations," a weekly international music dance club, featuring DJs IJ, Wisdom, and Alain del Corazon spinning African, Salsa, Reggae, Brazilian, Middle Eastern and other beats. Giveaway of world-music CDs from Putumayo Records. \$5. 21+ w/d. 8pm-2am. 628 Divisadero (at Hayes).

Mon 30

Minna Street Gallery

"Ideas in Animation" — Nik Phelps and his group The Sprocket Ensemble join forces with contact-juggler and fire-eater Mike "Temple" Brady as he and his lovely assistant Tamra enact their popular new "Flaming Won Ton Show." Set in the confines of an unusual Chinese restaurant, the act provides a gourmet take on the art of fire eating. \$10 (\$7 students). 7:30pm & 9:30pm (doors open 7pm). 111 Minna St. (btwn. 2nd & New Montgomery). Reservations: 681-3189.

Storyville

One night only screening of "Fame Whore" by award-winning cult filmmaker Jon Moritsugu ("Mod Fuck Ex-

plosion" and "Terminal USA"). A Warholian trypick about fucked-up people, including a foul-mouthed "straight" world tennis champion (played with zeal by drop-dead gorgeous Peter Friedrich) outraged by headlines that he's gay. Campy, offbeat, tragic, and trashy. Doors open 9pm; DJ Tomás spins downtempo till 11pm, when film begins. Followed by DJ Felix the Dog. \$3 cover. 1751 Fulton St. (at Masonic). 565-7313.

Tue

Unitarian Center

"Body Positive, Moving Soul," an evening of dance, drumming, and community for people with HIV. Commemorates World AIDS Day. Sponsored by California Pacific Medical Center's Institute for Health and Healing. Free. 7:30pm. 1187 Franklin St. (at Geary).

MCC

Selected "Pieces of the Quilt," directed by Danny Scheide, presented by Artists Alliance Against AIDS and the JonSims Center for the Performing Arts. A World AIDS Day event. Follows a 6pm, hour-long memorial service presented by Metropolitan Community Church. \$5-\$10 sliding. At 7:15pm, classical pianist Manuel Martinez will play contemplative music in honor of those who have died and those currently struggling against AIDS. "Pieces" starts at 7:30pm. 150 Eureka St.

Intersection for the Arts

"Pack of Lies," a discussion and reading of creative non-fiction, with Brian Bouldrey (Pilgrim's Regress; Harrington Gay Men's Fiction Quarterly) and Louise Rafkin (Other People's Dirt: A Housecleaner's Adventures from Cape Cod to Kyoto). Rafkin will talk about how aspects of creative storytelling, sometimes known as lying, are continually contaminating her non-fiction. \$5 (\$3 students/seniors/members). 8pm. 446 Valencia. 626-3311.



Amy Davis and Jason T. Rail in *Fame Where*, screening at Storyville. See Monday.

Josie's

"Anne Frank Superstar: The Ethel Spillotes Story," written and performed by comedian Betsy Salkind. About a smart, edgy young comedian (age 10) who is cast to play Anne Frank in a sitcom. It all goes terribly wrong. The show has been sanctified by Rabbi David Neiman. \$10. 8pm & 9:30pm. Also on 12/2. Reservations: 861-7933.

Make-Out Room

Screening of "Red Rain," a one-hour documentary about Gina Guidi, a San Leandro woman who currently holds two championship title belts in boxing. Produced and directed by Bay Area filmmaker Laura Plotkin. \$7-\$10 sliding (helps offset production and distribution costs of this highly independent film). 7pm. 3225 22nd St. (at Mission). 647-2888.

Wed

Harvey Milk Academy

"Gay Rap," an opportunity for discussion and friendship. All Welcome. Free. 7:30pm. Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy Auditorium, 4235 19th St. (at Collingwood). 522-8700.

Footloose @ Venue 9

Futuristic Vaudevillians Amy X Neuburg & Men, with Amy X (vocals, electronic drums), Herb Heinz (guitar, vocals), Micah Ball (Chapman stick, vocals), Joel Davel (MIDI mallets, Lightning motion sensor, vocals), and J.T. Quillan III (vocals, theatrics). Also: Charming Hostess plays Eastern European folk, klezmer, blues, and funk. \$6-\$10 sliding. 8pm. 252 9th St. (btwn. Folsom/Howard). 289-2000.

S.F. Camerawork

Special evening reception to preview works up for grabs at the annual benefit auction of fine art photographic prints, which takes place on 12/5. Get an advance look at the offerings — more than 200 vintage and contemporary prints. Not just for experienced collectors. Free. 5pm-9pm. 115 Natoma St. (btwn. New Montgomery & 2nd St.). 764-1001.

Thu

848 Community Space

"Wrestling With Affection," dances for men by choreographer Scott Wells. Seven men physically explore the lines between competition and cooperation, aggression and vulnerability. \$10-\$15. 8:30pm.

Thru 12/5. 848 Divisadero St. (at McAllister). 885-3340.

Focus Gallery

Reception for "Folsom Street: Photographs of SOMA Culture," featuring the recent works of Robert Critcher. A melange of documentary images, fine art, and scholarship. Free. 6:30-9:30pm. Exhibit runs thru 12/14. 2423 Polk St. (at Union). 567-9067.

The Marsh

"Bill and Chuck and Scrooge," a new play written, directed by, and starring Danny Scheie. A very non-traditional Christmas tale lambasting family values, classic fiction, and Christmas itself. \$10-\$12 sliding (\$15 Fri. & Sat.). 8:30pm. Thru 12/20. 1062 Valencia St. (at 22nd). 826-5750.

Oak St. Ballroom

"Songs of the Season" a musical variety show benefiting the AIDS Emergency Fund, featuring Donna Sachet, Danny Williams, T.J. Istvan, the music of the Lollipop Guild and J. Brian Washman, and more. \$25 (includes a holiday buffet provided by Harvey's). Doors open 7pm; show at 8pm. International Center, 50 Oak St.

A Traveling Jewish Theatre

Preview: "Diamonds in the Dark: An Exploration of Yiddish Poetry," directed by Helen Stoltzfus, featuring a kaleidoscopic selection of poetry set to a postmodern musical score by Albert Greenberg. Movement by Stephen Pelton. Inaugurates the ensemble company's new, state-of-the-art theatre. \$20. 8pm. Previews thru 12/6; regular run opens 12/7. 470 Florida St. (btwn 17th & Mariposa). 399-1809.

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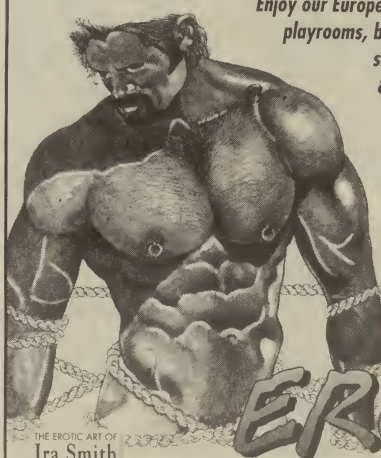
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Thank our lucky stars

Mister Marcus

Here we are, headed into the penultimate holiday season of the 20th Century, and while our various gay and lesbian communities have yet to achieve the legal and social status enjoyed by most straight people, we have made many strides through activism, giving impetus to progressive legislation for the good of all.

Now we're at the Thanksgiving holiday, which was created by early Anglo settlers of this vast country, ostensibly to celebrate the strides they made as pioneers in a new land. Over the centuries, Thanksgiving seems somehow to have lost its meaning, and is now a minor part of the commercial ritual when Christmas spending sprees start and the economy surges.

So it is important to remind ourselves what we have to be thankful for. In our community, it is safe to surmise that we can be thankful for all the volunteers who do good things for the sick,

needy and hopeless; for the activists who fight the legal battles that inch us slowly forward in our quest for equality. We should also be thankful for the creative energy of artists, writers, photographers, actors, musicians, vocalists, film makers and dramatists who express their creativity for all of us to enjoy, and whose work often makes both subtle and in-your-face statements about our right to live and play as we want without interference.

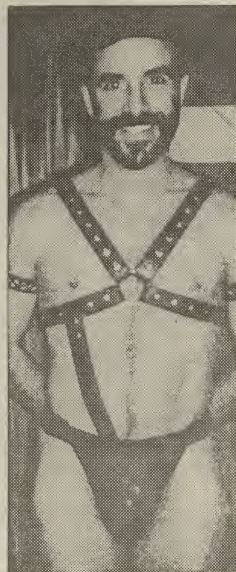
The evolution of universal thinking that seems to be "live and let live" is slow and ponderous in spite of pragmatists of political and religious persuasions who have not a clue about biblical edicts which espouse loving thy neighbor. Unheard of only a few short years ago, the formation of PFLAG serves as impetus for universal understanding.

Yes, there are still those in the greater LGBT community who are guilty of de facto segregation. Prejudices still exist, exerted upon members of the leather nation even here in this highly touted

next page ►



Bazaar



John Rochat of Santa Rosa prevailed over five others to win the Mr. Triple R Leather '98 title on Saturday, Nov. 21.



Contenders for the Mr. Russian River Leather '98 title on Dec. 12 will be (L to R) John Rochat (Mr. Triple R Leather), Phil Bortolussi (Mr. River Business Leather), and Taylor Poff (Mr. Rainbow Cattle Co. Leather).

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Weekend November 26-29

It's not a holiday in Canada, and this weekend Toronto welcomes the world to its leather/SM events featuring the Mr. Leatherman Toronto Competition and the Dungeon Dance at the Opera House on Saturday night. The action begins Thursday, Nov. 26 with outgoing TL James Anderson @ Gatsby's; meet & greet judges and contestants at the Toolbox on Friday; Saturday afternoon seminars at the 519 Church St. Community Center featuring Tony DeBlase and Saturday night the competition and dance. Sunday a victory brunch at the Toolbox, SM seminar, Boot & Jock Party at The Barn and a unity party at the Black Eagle at 2200 Call 1-800-387-1240.

Thursday, November 26

Hey, it's Thanksgiving Day! Enjoy whatever repast you've been invited to. Indulge, indulge, indulge!

Saturday, November 27

10th Annual Seattle Leather Daddy, Daddy's Boy, and Grand Dad Contests @ The Cuff Complex by the Seattle Men in Leather, for only \$5. Of course, it's a benefit for Lambert House, don't cha know?

Celebrating its 27th year, the DC Eagle stages its Mr. DC Eagle Leather contest tonight. Wayne Nesbitt will pass the sash to a successor. Wayne will be a hard act to follow, an intelligent, caring, altruistic shining example of what leather title holding should be all about. Thanks for a good year, Wayne. You did us proud!

Sunday, November 29

San Franciscans MC beer/soda bust at the Eagle, 1500-1800, food, beverages, mirth and fun. Only \$8.

Wednesday, December 2

Leathermen's Discussion Group, 1930, upstairs at the Lone Star. Leather wear encouraged. Subject: "SM-The Personal Journey" by bike/sex maven Michael Bettinger. Call 626-3747 for details.

Thursday, December 3

Final Big Basket contest of the year at The Edge, with Danny Williams, the Old Bag, prizes, beer/soda bust and that cute Eric Weinman!

MAST gathering upstairs at the Lone Star, 1930. Topic: Taking D/S Out of the Playroom into the World.

MUSIC

Hot music from a cold climate

by Gregg Shapiro

Ever since we were first introduced to Abba, and then assaulted by Ace Of Base, we've become aware that Sweden and its surrounding environs can be a source of great pop music. More recently, the tradition has continued with acts such as Bjork, The Cardigans, and Robyn. Komedá, Legendary Pink Dots, and Baxter also generate some heat on their discs *What Makes It Go?* (Minty Fresh), *Nemesis Online* (Soleilmoon Recordings), and Baxter's self-titled major label debut disc (Maverick/WB), respectively.

What Makes It Go? is Komedá's second disc for the cutting-edge Minty Fresh label, and it picks up right where 1996's *The Genius of Komedá* left off. Combining a distinctive retro-Europop sound with a nineties detachment, Komedá makes music to dance to that won't stress you out. Sure they sing about Jung and Wittgenstein in "Flabbergast," but don't let

that put you off, just get up and dance. Lena Karlsson's distinctive vocals reel you in without letting you get too close, particularly on "Binario," "It's Alright Baby," "Curious," "Happyment," and my favorite track, the album's closer, "A Simple Formality."

Rising from the ashes, or should I say grains, of Salt, the band in which lead vocalist and guitarist Nina Ramsby was performing, the trio known as Baxter is set to make their mark on the trip hop world. Their deceptively pretty (especially "Possible" and "Oh My Love") album, with Ramsby's controlled vocals in the lead, belies a tension that you can feel vibrating beneath tracks such as "Love Again," "Fading," "Political," and "So Much I've Heard."

From Amsterdam's more temperate region comes Legendary Pink Dots, a band that has been in existence for almost twenty years. Working with a similar combination of real and technological instrumentation, Legendary Pink Dots create a soundscape as unique

as Komedá's and Baxter's. Like the soundtrack to a dream, their twelve-track disc guides the listener through a variety of sensations. Highlights include "As Long as it's Purple and Green," "Is It Something I Said?," "Zoo," "Cheating the Shadow," and "Abracadabra."

If your taste runs toward both the more exotic and authentic (not that any of the aforementioned bands aren't either or both), or if it's colder temperatures you are seeking, may I suggest *The New Voice of North* (Finlandia Records) by Girls of Angeli, and *Roussa Enana* (Atrium) by Ulla Piirttijarvi. Both albums, and the women who perform them, are making an effort to bring "yoik" (or "joik"), a "way of talking and purifying oneself," common among the Sami people of Northern Finland, to a broader audience. They've got my attention, with their combination of chants, harmonies, traditional and modern instrumentation, and I, for one, sincerely hope that they succeed. ▼

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

"bastion of liberalism" city of San Francisco.

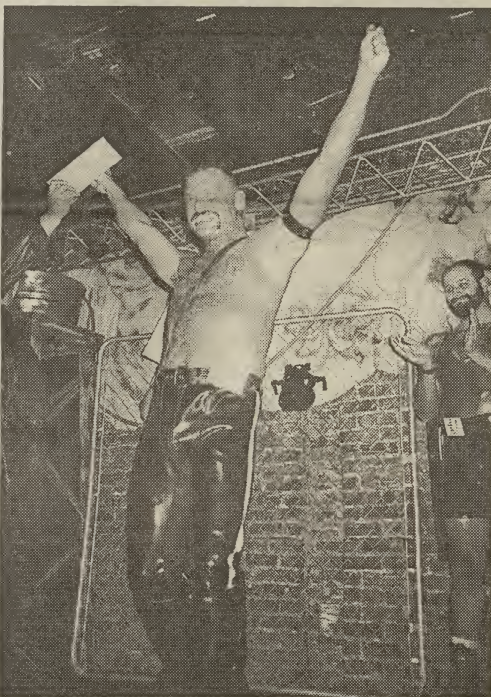
It is disheartening and hard to understand why this is prevalent when we have seen, over and over, examples of the tactics employed by other groups to gain civil liberties legislation for disenfranchised peoples. Furthermore, it is shameful to note that there are those among us who refuse to embrace diversity in whatever form it may manifest itself. To many, solidarity is an alien concept. Voting is not enough. Representatives whom you voted for must be constantly reminded that we want our "piece of the action". A lethargic community is a doomed community. Turned off by the modus operandi of our political clubs? You can do plenty on your own without joining groups with faux leaders, that emerge for their own political aggrandizement, access to plush jobs, and political appointments.

Hopefully, in this day and age of instant communication, a dialogue of inclusion and diversity will be initiated by and with our so-called leaders. A stamp costs only 32 cents; if you aren't skilled in letter writing, ask someone who is to help you express your opinion.

Well, enough pontificating. I hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving celebration and be thankful that there are so many among us who are out there on the lines feeding the needy, the sick and the homeless. Thanks also for the generosity of all who made donations to those groups. And if you didn't get an invite for some Thanksgiving grub, check out the Tenderloin Tessie holiday dinner at 1st Unitarian Universal Church at 1187 Franklin (@ Geary). They're serving from 1300-1600.

Class act at the River

There were two leather contests over the weekend. Saturday night, November 21, they chose Mr. Russian River Resort Leather, and on Sunday, the GDIs staged a Mr. GDI Leather contest at their Butch Brunch. This being a holi-



Victory was sweet for Thomas Smith of Minneapolis after winning the Mr. International Rubber title at the Cell Block in Chicago on Saturday, Nov. 4.

day issue, and my having a 9 a.m. Sunday deadline, the outcome of the GDI contest will have to wait until next week. But, oh, what an experience it was judging the contest in Guerneville!

I've judged leather contests from coast to coast at every level: bar, neighborhood, city, state, region, and even in foreign climes. Ray Allen and his faithful (and efficient) staff get a solid 10 for their efforts. First off, there were six contestants, who raised more than \$800 dollars selling raffle tickets, and every one of them was drop dead handsome, hunky, sexy and friendly. Judging with Philip Turner and Omar Moseley is always a fun experience. The audience was enthusiastic and supportive of Matt Geiser, Chris Har-

rill, Max Kline, Ed Mello, John Rochat and Janos Zanyl. No time was wasted in the pre-judging, speech/question, physique and leather wear. It was like being under the Yum Yum tree all day!

It took two and one half hours to pick a winner, and that turned out to be John Rochat, a 35 year-old oncologist from Santa Rosa. The runner-up was Janos Zanyl. Mr. Rochat will compete with Taylor Poff of the Rainbow Cattle Co. and Phil Bortolussi of River Business on December 12. This will be a great contest. Hope you are making plans to be there. And now, the burning question is: Who will represent the Russian River for the first time ever at I.M.L. in Chicago next May? I can't wait! ▼

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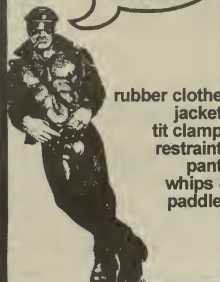
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PARTING GLANCES

Fri 10/16 My Place

U: Russian River T-shirt, beard, P.A. wolf! Me: Shaved head, nose ring, I want to get with you one on one. Guaranteed Hot!!! 4700

Hot Japanese @ Brooks Brothers U helped me w/ sweater exchange, (white for yellow) wed. 10/7. Would like to buy you coffee, maybe more, call if interested. 4701

UA Eft on 10/10 from Denver to SF I was a flight attendant dead headed seated in 1st class and you were a passenger in 1st class. We looked at each other and smiled many times. Call me. 4702

Looking for Jack of Oakland We went Sat 5th Labor day wed midnight. San Jose bath house me sleeping by the pool, you black gay hair mustache 6' 200lb or so was my first time there want more. 4703

Latin Stud in Camouflage Pants @ Diva Madness, Russian River, Stared @ me hard & long; tried to stare you over. Loved what I saw & want to see & do more. Call. 4704

9/20 Without Reservations 4-4:30pm U: "Key West" cap, Harry, beautiful brown eyes, great smile, we kept looking at each other. Me: with friend, "Cocks Cap" glasses, you're so handsome, please call! 4705

Geary/Fillmore Tues. 10/20 U: Cute guy w/yellow tank, shorts, and smooth muscled legs. Me: Black guy at #22 spot We smiled twice. You try to talk to you. You're sweet, let's meet! 4800

Frustrated Crowded Muni Saw you, dark & handsome, major eye contact. Me: tall blonde. Couldn't get on the underground train. Grrrr. 10/13 Let's connect. 4801

You're From San Jose You're a draftsman/African American named Klen. You met at the Lone Star and promised I'd call, but lost your number. Me: big Latino guy. 4802

Dane - Where are you? After Dore Alley Fair, Burger King; Quick kiss at #31 stop. Can't forget you. Where can I find you? Eagle? Taco Bell? You can find me. Please do. Russell. 4803

Blow Buddies Sat 10/17 Early U: White shorts, no shirt, cap. Me: Black shirt/jeans. Get you off, would like to have. No strings. 4804

Victor: Labor Day Weekend@RRR Made a date @ pool after T-shirt saw to Flies Dance. I waited, but never saw U. Want to see you again & talk. Call Scott. 4805

Ray Handsome & Sweet Sunday afternoon 2/18, Badlands. You took my hand, I'd like to talk. The Cowboy. 4806

Embarcadero U Lock RM Sun 10/18 Zom Cuto boy! I hope you were coming on to me & that you read BAR Talk. Don't give up. Call. Let's get together. 4807

You - Red Hunky Left - Castro St We exchanged glances walking down Castro St but we were both with groups & couldn't stop to pursue. Those big hairy arms sure would feel great inside my hungry hole. 4900

Hey! Mr. Morning Fed Ex Man Next time - Stay awhile - You're Hot!! Apt 304 4901

Desert endurance Ad #3933 To late to call - Ad sounds interesting visiting Palm Springs for thanks giving. Again in Feb. I'm 5'8", 150 Brbr, 40yrs, 9", loves to give head. 4902

Drew At Taqueria I would like very much to talk about your documentary and our comfort level of being lazy. Garry. 4903

Steve: Firewood Sat Oct 24 We talked thru dinner, but never exchanged phone #'s. Let's get together for another dinner etc. Jack. 4904

Costco Priceclimb Columbus Day Morning took place. You a Bi affectionate discreet. We exchanged meaningful glances. Hoping we can exchange more. 4905

Crazy For You..... U: gorgeous redhead, great smile, cute body, moving to Las Vegas. Me: Black hair, brown eyes, same HW. You're the One! Got to have you. Call anytime. 4906

Tyler W/Back Tatoo Magnitude/Folsom St. Fair. Looked for you at Hell Ball. Let's meet. Rick. 4907

Thomas Duboce Triangle 10/31 You never came back after leaving to get a key. I would have been back. Try again? 4908

Koret Center Swimmer Sat. 11/7. You green swim suit, left with a friend in his BMW. Was he your boyfriend? We exchanged numerous glances. Call if you are available. S 5000

Mon 11/2 21st Between Douglas & Eureka - you in pick up truck - me walking - small dog, we cruised, you stopped, wish I would have approached, maybe we can try again. S 5001

IEP, BOB, Teus 11/3 I said hello on my way out the door, would like to know you. You, Kick hair & stache. Me: Brwn hair & stache. Call if single & interested. S 5002

Craig From L.A. This is the other Craig from FL. we met @ Pleasure dome on 11/1. Call me! S 5003

Hot & Chunky Halloween You sat next to the salad bar (a handsome Asian) me a Blonde madador. Too shy to give you #. How about a second chance to meet. S 5004

Stan, Thanks For the Aide Home I said hello on my way out the door, would like to see you again. Please call. You're so cute! S 5005

Sailor James..... Met you at Marton's on 10/31. Me: Sailor Mike in white polyester chaps. Missed your call. Please call back. I lost your #. S 5006

DH Safety Thurs 11/4 4ish U: Blue eyes, w/ handsome, in car. Me: White T-shirt bla k pants, truck. You drove by, looked in RV mirror. I smiled back a few times, got flustered. Can we meet???? S 5007

Scott: Met @ Daddy's Via AOL U: Bearded, muscled, leather, powerful smile, beautiful eyes, humorous, smart as a whip. Me: Steve, bearded, blue eyes, buzz cut, creative, handsome, intelligent. I am really in love with you!!! Must take you to dinner.....in Hawaii!!!! S 5008

Dame Edna Sun 10/25 I had a green windbreaker, goatate, dark hair, getting into a cab with my real dad when I saw your handsome bearded smile. Kept looking back, you kept smiling!! S 5009

PowerHouse Hunk 10/26: Exceptionally handsome man with plaid shirt open to show your beautiful hairy chest. Hearing Aides? Near patio door some guy sucked your nipples. After, I whispered "Wish I'd done that". Please call. S 5100

Jeep Cherokee Th 11/12 12:45pm Me: wild hair, Jetsons Honda E.V. You: goatate, shades, nice smile, followed me Market over Portola. We waved, you turned left. Wanna ride? S 5101

Where Is Fairfield? Where R U your # was invalid: I live close to you. You're a hunk. Me: 3yrs. 5'11", 145, brbl. S 5102

Jay The Fireman-Castro 10/31 SF nice guy, looking for masculine fellow for dating, movies, music, theatre, art, dining in or out, inner's, glants... size, race, age unimportant. 4718

Raoul Please Call Again!! I responded to your ad, you called me fri, the 13, but my machine cut off before I got your #. Please call leave your # again. I like you a lot. S 5107

Pacific Heights Thurs 11/12 3:30 We saw each other @ doctors office, then followed each other all over fillmore st, why didn't you follow me into Alta Plaza to join me for a drink? S 5105

Streethit Records Sat 11/7 U: Dark and handsome in dark jacket and knitted hat. Me: Plaid jacket, jeans, hat. I've neglected not talking, 2nd chance? S 5106

Joe Seeks Jeff We met at Work West Sat 11/7. Lost your #. Please call leave your # again. I like you a lot. S 5107

Seamus, it's Been Awhile... Come by for a visit-and bring your human with you too! Marty. 5108

Blue Suit/Blk Hair & Sexy!!!!!! 11/9 4pm. You: Blue suit/blk hair, sexy! Me: Brown hair/dread glasses. We both got off Muni @ Church St, saw you again 11/11 3pm. Walked your way to Page/Steiner. Would like very much to meet you! S 5109

E. Bay Master Seeks Slave 25-50yrs, responsible, h/wk proportionate, with obedient tongue and ass. Single, comp, panio-oriented only. Fudging, driving piss, serving nipples, master's dominant, not sadistic. HIV- 42, 170lb, brbl, mustache/goatee. 4527

Bright Eyes, Ready Smile Handsome Italian 52, 5'10", stocky, whbr, tattoos, stable, honest, open minded/heart. ISO monogamous LTR (friends first, safe sex later) HIV-neg, happy attractive spirit/mind/body. N/S, Ndrgms, near East Bay Bart station. 4706

Seeking Man who has a Zest for Life! A gentleman, handsome to striking, ex-olc, caring, comforting, adventures, inquisitive, eloquent, with sense of humor. A genuine student of human nature, affectionate, dependable, giver and taker. Call me. S 5018

Koret Center Swimmer Sat. 11/7. You green swim suit, left with a friend in his BMW. Was he your boyfriend? We exchanged numerous glances. Call if you are available. S 5000

Mon 11/2 21st Between Douglas & Eureka - you in pick up truck - me walking - small dog, we cruised, you stopped, wish I would have approached, maybe we can try again. S 5001

IEP, BOB, Teus 11/3 I said hello on my way out the door, would like to see you again. Please call. You're so cute! S 5005

Craig From L.A. This is the other Craig from FL. we met @ Pleasure dome on 11/1. Call me! S 5003

Cute And Creative Artistic, urbane, professional, dominant GBM 5'10", 160#, 30lbs. ISO masculine, conservative bottom men. Be any race, physically fit, over 28yo, latino/mediterranean A+. 4707

European SWM 30s, tall and slender, attractive, fit, healthy, NS, professional with wide range of interests (outdoors, movies, art), looking for friendship, dating, intimacy. Open to LTR. 4708

Did I Tell You you're Wonderful? Well, I'll never be able to if we never meet. Smart, easygoing, caring AM, 32, HIV-, seeks similar A/W man 28-40, in East Bay for dating, possible LTR. 4709

GWM HIV+ & 47 Seeks GBM I'm 6' 165lb, blond, friendly, like travel, museums, politics, warm affectionate cuddling. Looking for compatible GBM, open to relationship. Please call. 4710

GWM Seeks Latino GWM, 40s, 5'7", 150lbs, blond/blue, good-looking, sexy, positive, healthy, in-shape, professional, masculine, seeks Latino for dating, possible LTR. 4711

Passion For Chubbies I'm Latin, 25, 5'11", 160#, HIV-, romantic. ISO a cute healthy chubby man N/S, ND, HIV-, fun, affectionate, 21-29 plays games A+, hairy A+. 4712

Just Lookin' For a little fun, friendship and some openness for future possibilities. GWM, 35-40, ISO a guy who's not into club scene between the age of 30 and 45, healthy, happy N/S, ND. 4713

Jackoff Show off? Need an Apt? Devoted to pleasing yourself! Love demonstrating your expertise in windows for worshipping neighbors? Need an SF apt? if you're Asian or GWM, 20's thru 40's, let's talk! 4714

Conversation and Companionship Don't need to work; don't want those who do. No drugs, sex, romance. Love nature, art, active, educated, interesting, fun, caring individuals. 4715

HIVPositive Partner Search Handsome 30yo GWM looking for "My Partner". Are you secure enough to play on occasion for sex - but still remain my partner? Are you sexy 25-35 and ready to commit? 4716

Interested In Friendship GM 30, brmbli, 5'7", seeks friendship with GM 30-45, brmbli, brn/bn, into nature, hiking, trekking. I like a mustache on men. 4717

Gentle Giant GWM 41, very tall, (offensive lineman sized) SF nice guy, looking for masculine fellow for dating, movies, music, theatre, art, dining in or out, inner's, glants... size, race, age unimportant. 4718

Two Bears Lost In Hibernation Holding hands in the Castro theatre - walking out into the fog. I'll take the chill off! 42yo, 6'3", big bear seeks another. 4719

Ready To Move? Ready to settle down! Me too! I'm 34, brn, sm, sexy, non-fem. ISO friendly possible to consider moving to Big Bear. Let's talk! Call me for more details. 4720

GAM Seeking GWM Friend/LTR Handsome, masculine GAM, 37, 5'9", 135, HIV-, in-shape to meaty, college educated professional. Facial hair, hairy, HIV-, versatile. SF preferred. 4721

Franchise Minded Transsexual 62", 35, financially successful, high value, honest, sexy, non-fem. ISO friendly possible to consider moving to Big Bear. Let's talk! Call me for more details. 4720

Warm Sensual Active Men... 43yo GWM 5'9", brn/bn, 165, avt, looks nice build, kinky but healthy sex, looking to meet, date, warm sensual active men, 35-50, LTR possible. 4723

Sincerity and Honesty GAM, 39yo, 5'8", 145lbs, professional, seeks other sincere, honest & caring gay men for friendship and possible LTR. New to dating scene. Serious only. 4724

Nice GAM 38, 5'8", 145lbs, seeks open minded, honest, sexy, non-fem. ISO friendly possible to consider moving to Big Bear. Let's talk! Call me for more details. 4720

What Dreams May Come 32yo, 5'6", 150lb, good looking, perfect body, looking for a guy who likes asian men. Call me & I'll take U to Titanic. I'm here waiting for you. 4726

Attractive Latino Goodlooking Latino 32yo dark hair, brown eyes, goatee, like to go to movies, music, hiking, tennis, travel. Looking for GWM between 25-37 for friendship or more. Just call. 4808

Slender Asian Seeking GWM Chinese, 5'7", 130#, smooth, straight acting. Seeking bulky GWM in San Francisco for safe sex. 4810

Attractive Latino Very good looking, 33yo, dark hair, br/eyes, tattoos, 5'7", 150#, professional, intelligent, HIV- 23yo, 5'9", for friendship or more. I like movies, dinner. Call me. 4916

Bearcat Seeks Bear GWM, 40, 215lb, brn hair, green eyes, 40, educated with adventurous attitude and likes to experience fine things in life. Swimmers body A+ but all calls to receive response. 4822

Handsome Black Top 37yo Black male with muscular swimmer's build well-endowed, HIV-, ISO 20-40, HIV-, white bottom for hot times, possible LTR. You won't be disappointed! 4812

Cute Asian I'm 30yrs, 150lbs, HIV-, looking for blond blue eyes, 21 thru 38yo. Call me & I will show you the world I like to travel, gym, sports & dance. 4813

"Happily Ever After"... Unique, handsome, SGWM, 6', 200lbs, 48yo, sexy, multi talented, playful. Seeks: Goodlooking SGWM, under 44yo, drk hair a plust Horny, full of personality. Dating: Goal LTR. Just "Kids at Heart" Call. 4814

GWM 62 Bld Seeks Playmate Mate needed for theatre, skiing, and traveling. Tired of being alone!! Call me. 4815

Wanted: Hot Top 4 LTR Hi I'm new to town, 42, 5'9", 190, HIV-, bottom, WM. Seeking nice guy who loves to talk & love. Prefer N/S under 40. 4818

Football Bussy Straight Acting Masculine NS, GWM, 39, seeks same for watching football working out and dining out and sex and dating, leading to poss. LTR, I'm versatile bottom. you be 25-30. 4817

Attr Clean-Cut Masculine GAM 34, 5'9", 174#, seeks similar Asian or Latin men for friendship, warm times (ie, kissing, cuddling) and relationship. 4818

Italian Guys! I'm the guy who knows what the Italian male really wants! Let's get together for fun and good times. 4819

Mulatto Guy Sexy, intelligent, light-skinned, good-looking. Seeking financially secure guy for fun and good times or a relationship. 4820

Cute Boy & Companion Seeking dependable, honest trim cute boy. Any race, legal age, who's oral. Me: 53yo, good looking, 5'8", very oral, beautiful. Sausalito home. Referred prof, HIV-A must. 4821

LTR? Noe V. Prof. 45, Brn, Blu, WM, 160, smvr, HIV-, cat, romantic, average guy, enjoys life, 49ers, enjoy music, cat, garage, travel, home. ISO HIV- uncult partner. W/H, 35-55, mature, independent. Cook, hairy A+. 4822

Free massage GWM, ex-massage therapist, 6', 165lbs, 40, br/bl, offers a massage to learn, wary, dark-haired gay caucasian tops. Let me rub you the right way. 4823

Emergency Cockucking Service 7 days/24hrs we never close! Next time all the guys go off together leaving you alone with your hand on get it sucked off good! 4824

ISO African American Ski Buddy German Art Prof. 50s, active lifestyle, skiing, windsurfing, jogging, hiking, seeks similar African American male 30-40, with similar interests, like to be outdoors, carefree spirit, affectionate, muscular build, humorous and trustworthy! No fems please. 4909

Is It Still Good To You?? BM top daddy ISO WM bottom 45+ yrs old but hot (its and ass) enjoys taking it wearing fem undies, chastity, etc. U B ch-shaven. Me: Uncut 40yrs+ and horny. 4910

Single Seeking LTR GWM professional, 50, HIV+, top/cockucuker, non-smoker, smoker, traditional values, financially independent, bottom, seeks LTR, 40-63, cut, financially independent for dinner, theatre, travel and sexual explorations. 4911

Aggressive Asian Men GWM, 165, 6'2", seeks oriental men to dominate me sexually and socially. I will dominate and obey your instructions. I love to suck you anytime. Yours. 4912

There's a GBM out there! intelligent, handsome, slim, under 35 or so, city dweller & enjoyer, who likes more mature GWM for fun, friendship & maybe more. 4913

Brown Man Seeks Friends 42, 6'1", 170lbs, HIV-, beard/mustache. Into music, massage, gardening. I live in a small cabin in the mountains. Into very simple living. On spiritual path. Looking for similar. Let's journey together. Not looking for sex buddy. ND, NS, NA. 4914

Ebony Seeks Ivory GBM, 41, 5'10", athletic, fun, romantic, seeks LTR, professional and pit military, who values humor and physical well being. You like outdoor adventure & indoor intimacy. 4915

Looking For Older HIV+ BM GWM, bottom, 54, 5'10", 210lbs, HIV+, looking for HIV+ BM to explore the possibilities of a relationship. Interested in consens, dining out, plays, travel. I live in Oakland. 4917

ISO Sailor/Teacher WM young 45, 5'7", 150, want to get back into sailing, interests about the Bay, nice guy, with many interests, professional, in-shape, you're in charge, good person, HIV-. Friends first. 4909

Handsome Loving Hunky Man Accomplished GWM seeks passionate relationship possible LTR. I'm 6'2", 190#, 42, very muscular, goateed Italian. Fun, sincere, exclusive, family oriented, healthy as a horse. HIV- non-progressive, deeply love to leather, sexually charged for relationship. Seeks similar 35-45yo, professional, GWM, grounded, secure, relationship experienced and committed to what makes it work. A man to look me in the heart, so we can die for each other's bodies and live for each other's souls. facial hair and body build for a Good credentials and character a must. Serious only, please. Call... 4727

Obedient Quiet Hole Little boy dick, pretty hole needs partner for serious bondage and ownership. train and cultivate to your specifications. helpless, raw, exhausted, pleading, honorable, tract? Collateral? Recreational? Vitamins administered at your whim. 5125

Handsome Loving Hunky Man Accomplished GWM seeks passionate relationship possible LTR. I'm 6'2", 190#, 42, very muscular, goateed Italian. Fun, sincere, exclusive, family oriented, healthy as a horse. HIV- non-progressive, deeply love to leather, sexually charged for relationship. Seeks similar 35-45yo, professional, GWM, grounded, secure, relationship experienced and committed to what makes it work. A man to look me in the heart, so we can die for each other's bodies and live for each other's souls. facial hair and body build for a Good credentials and character a must. Serious only, please. Call... 4727

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Educated Boy/Man for fun & travel GWM, 40, 5'10", 185#, seeks GWM 25-40, educated with adventurous attitude and likes to experience fine things in life. Swimmers body A+ but all calls to receive response. 4922

Executive Type Male Wanted 32-47ish like dark hair and eyes med to husky build. Me: 27 it hair 5'10", 150#, green eyes, (French/German) adventurous, easygoing student, employed, fun, seeking casual dating possible LTR. 4923

Seeking Love Young and mature GLM seeks 19-30yo, emotionally stable GWM/GLM for relationship. Caring, affectionate, sincere, into dance, music, working out, movies, and the simple things. A sense of humor is a must. N/S. 5124

GWM Seeks Thai/Asian Guys 5'11", 200lbs, grn/blonde, attractive 31yo, seeking Thai guys for friendship or LTR in SF. I would like to learn to speak Thai. UB under 32 speak Thai A+. 4924

Searching For Mr. Right! 26yo GWM 135#, HIV-, very versatile, blue/blond seeks to start friendship, maybe more, w/Latinos/other. You: young uncult, honest, open. 4925

HIV+ Capricorn Top Wanted Shy, loving, HIV+ bottom build, 36yo, 6ft, 185, blue/blond, seeks funny, blunt, workaholic goat - soulmate. I won't tie you down or fence you in (you'd bust loose) come over and graze. 4926

New To Town 34yo WM student, HIV+ 5'9" br/gr, goatate, looking for sincere romantic top between 30-40 max interests. Call to find out. S 5010

Bottom Bear Seeks Top GWM 6'1", 220, 31, brndbl, handsome & hairy. Looking for hairy Italian or Jewish tops who love to have their crotches worshipped. Call me. S 5011

Would you Mine if I'm Asian Hawaiian Filipino 30s, 5'5", 152 HIV+, versatile bottom smooth, affectionate, romantic, honest, non smoker. Seeking a mas, top man in shape, or stocky, 35-55. For romance, nasty hot times, friendship or LTR. I have many interests, call for more. S 5012

Handsome & Fit Latino Handsome Latino, 50, HIV-, 5'8", 155lbs, with an out door job, seeks handsome GWM, 30-55, for sharing movies, dining, art, travel and each others sensuality. Intrigued? let's talk. S 5013

Cub Seeks HIV+ Daddy Bear GWM, 57", 180#, beard, buzz, bottom, 45, seeks older, hairy, hairy, dominant W/Ms, Dad, Balding, cigars, over 200#, A+. Thick Sir! S 5014

HIV SGLM ISO Masculine Mentor I'm in my early 30s, seeking someone who can teach me about life and help me continue my art studies, age and race unimportant. S 5015

SF Bear Dad Sks Yngr Smaller Me: 50yo, GWM, 6', 250, br/brly, bald, attractive, successful. You: 20-50, avg h/wt, mus, self-sufficient, into attitude, NS, ND, HIV-. S 5016

Want A Change Tired of SF, Seattle Daddy looking for boy 25-45 to call his own. Dad: mid 50s, 5'10", 160lbs. versatile. Bright eyes, ready smile, stable, well hung A+. S 5017

Good Looking Boy Next Door Masculine, 30s, regular guy. Br/br, 165#, 5'8", seeking dark haired older brother type. 31-41, 5'10"+. Must be masculine, nice guy, good shape, attractive, top. 5110

Older for Young Ltn Blk Asian Attractive 54yo GWM, 6', 180lbs, fit, masc, goatee, blue eyes, playful, versatile, seeks date, fit, younger top who is down to earth, playful and uninhibited for LTR in S. Bay. 5111

Pussy Boy Punk Masochist 21-32, with decent body, in to verbal abuse, bondage, control, humiliation, sought by GWM 54, 5'7", 145lbs, NS, HIV-, masculine top. 5112

HIV+ 5'9" 165# Bk Looking for friendship anything else would be icing on the cake! I am a down to earth Taurus with a fairly wide range of interests. Capricorn, Virgo, Cancer, A+ 5113

Yng Punk/Alternative Boy Sought by Yuppie 40yo GWM. Looking for someone who likes to party have fun and have sex. But who is into drugs or drinking. Poss LTR. 5114

Latin Seeks Friends Or? I'm 27, 5'7", 160lbs, muscular, stocky, attractive, busy student. I'm seeking whites or latins over 21 for friendship or poss LTR. 5115

Emotional Intelligence Late 20s GAM seeks masculine, tall GWM, for an authentic life experience. Enjoy projects, home cooking, kinky sex. I'm handsome, outspoken and have an edge - Don't be squeamish!! 5116

ISO Masculine Awake Short Grounded, spirited, intense, sensual, SWM (5'6"), muscular, lean 40s) seeks youthful man committed to physical fitness and inner work: mindfulness, awakened heart. L/A BM encouraged. 5117

Mature Black Men GWM, 45, loves to see older black men 40-60, for steady relationship. Don't be lonely and horny anymore. You won't be disappointed. Love. 5118

Young Los Gatos Guy You lived on Maricopa Ct 96-97. We met at Renegades, had breakfast at Iron Skillet. Lost your #. Please call - John. 5119

Handsome Muscular Italian GWM, 38, 6'2", 185lbs, into fitness, travel, br/brly, seeks like seeks another HIV- NEGATIVE, extremely well-hung man for monogamous relationship. 5120

Seeking Meaningful Sex With a handsome young sexual romantic 18-40yo man who enjoys making love with an attr, mature GWM, 75, 5'8", 165. Sincere only. 5121

Romantic Redhead Passionate Htties, 210lb, 6', versatile, nicely hung. Share culture with me. I'm a hand-in-hand walker. NS, ND, HIV-. Be in SF please. All calls returned. 4921

Boyschool Accident Left Me With: 1" (not a typo) multiple scars, one ball, urinary incontinence, 45, 5'8", 180, masculine, white, successful, HIV-, brains, sexually adventurous. You: Masculine, sex-loving, not obese, 55max, open-minded, addition free. #4839

Man With Pump Has Big Hard... Cock. Wants companion and welcomes suggestions. Senior, trim, versatile respectable. #4840

Dad Needs Asian Seeking Asian with small hands & nice cock. Slide your hand deep in my hot tight ass. While I suck your cock. you may have fantasies about trying something wonderful. I am all yours. #4841

Kick Back Get Sucked Great oral sex, for hot, funky, musc. men with big cock-n-balls, hot mouth and tongue gets your load shot! #4842

Santa Rosa Area Hot Hung top 50 seeks playful hot assexed bottoms, me HIV-, you B-2, no smoking, no drugs, don't wait! #4843

Chinese Bunnies Need a Hung Top Buried balls deep in my hungry hole. I'm 5'9", 180, stocky muscular build, with an insatiable ass. #4844

Kick Back and Let Me... Work on your meat. Hot, horny Italian, 45, 6', 180lb, wants to pleasure you as you kick back & feed me. #4845

Just Shut-Up & Ride!!!!!! WM, 33, 5'10", 200lb, blonde/muscle hunk (48", 32", 18") wants goodlooking masculine men to pump me or get pumped. Also love to get massaged and jerked off, anytime. #4846

Older Black GWM 50-60-70's Let Charlie (GWM) take the lead. Mature, clean, HIV-, discreet. You likewise. #4847

Fuck A Big Daddybear Butt Big burly, 5'5", 54yrs, 289lbs, bearded, hairy, very horny daddybear, want to be cubby under 45yo, under 6ft, height/weight somewhat proportional, to make hot/rough love. Call now! #4848

Kinky Mature Bisexual Seeks light B&D and D/S with nice men who enjoy eroticism, sensuality, fetishism, mutuality, androgyny, friendliness, and consensual. #4849

East Bay Latin GWM, 5'4", 110lbs, 34yo, clean shaven HIV-, looking for a special man. Open to hear from guys 35+, wife or latin. Open to LTR. #4850

Oral Slut Applications Being accepted by 6', 170lb, hairy chested WM, 38, attractive, requiring respect, thorough, unhurried attention front and rear. I'm HIV-, older, mature, undemanding, messy. Older or overweight okay. #4851

No Strings Attached Just come over, strip down & let me work my magic on your meat. Hot Italian bottom, 45, 6', 180lb, bouncy, goatee. Castro location. 12-San. #4852

69 Sucking Shooting!!!!!! Handsome, negative, 40s, single. Tonight let's suck wildly and loudly with poppers and shoot our loads together into my mouth-tache. #4853

Hairy Beast Virile Ape-man stud with high sperm count seeks suck your cock, slim, muscular build. I am handsome 49yo, 6', 180, HIV+. You are eager to please. #4850

Top This! GBM 38, easy going, 6', 195, hairy. Looking for a top to have fun with. You be easy going and love to have fun. #4857

Warm Mouth And Hot Ass Ready for hot reaming by hard beautiful cocks. Love to warm your load, uncult A+. No flakes or guys unable to get it up! #4858

Studsucker Down to earth attractive, athletic, GWM, 40, 5'10", 160#, HIV-, eager, showing off my body, then going down on your rod. Older, younger, OK. Your place or mine. #4859

Hot & Horny Like a 7" Dick Suck GWM 50, 5'11", 175#, HIV-, NS, NO. Live suck & get fucked by asian or chinese without 7". 30-45's & watch video's. Please Call. #4850

At Your Service, Sir!!!!!! GWM, 48, 5'8", 140#, 8" cut, creative & butch! HIV+, looking for well-hung top to service and give my heart and ass!!!! #4861

Asian Guys Read This Looking for hot, horny Asian men under 35 who likes to kick back and get sucked off. Call now. Same day/night call back. #4862

Seeking Slim Cocksucker Older guy 58, 5'5", 155, seeking slim cocksucker for regular get-togethers my place. Age/race not important. Eves/wknds. #4863

Blow Job Artist Available For Ever-hard, multi-load top for exclusive service. UB HIV-, like me. #4864

Sonoma County Oralist Loves rimming, giving head, to slender guys, 18-35, in back, let me eat your out for hours! Fantasies, games, dominance also welcome. Daytime only. #4865

19-25 Bi GWM Wanted By Asian If you are 19-25 yo bi GWM who likes Asian for friendship, relationship, fun, or more, I'm early 30s Asian-Am. #4866

Sucking Fucking 35, HIV+, bottom, 5'5", 150lbs. ISO open minded top men 25-55 with 7" or more. Any race. East Bay. #4867

Ride On My Bushy Moustache Feel my long tongue up your hot butt. Me: 6', 165#, Bm/bblu 38. You: Hot & Ready. #4868

Sit On My Face Well built top, hung big needs well built WM (20s-30s) with big firm hairy butt to eat and fuck. 4939

Hung Guys Wanted! I'm looking for guys hung 7" or larger for fun and good times, the bigger the better for the greatest times! #5132

Shy GWM Seeks HIV- Neg Companions for oral sex. No reciprocation necessary. Want trim under 50, masculine white/fair/black men. I am in my 50s, 5'10", 150#. Love classical music, hiking. Let's meet over coffee. #4940

Clamp Lips on Mine, My Cock; Your ass slips slide over dad's dick: cling, snort, squeeze, drive, talk. Dad 6', 200lb 54, seeks younger smaller submissive boy (smoke, aroma, LTR A+). #4941

Oral Pig Eager To Please Very good looking oral bottom wants to service you! I'm 34yo, 6', 180lbs, dark hair, green eyes, goatee. You: Any looks/body, verbally dominant, enjoy being worshipped. Shaved head A+. #4942

A-1 Oral Service - Delivered SF GWM, HIV-, 6', handsome, delivers complete oral service to mature, trim guys who really dig getting sucked off. Your place, no reciprocation, HIV-, #4943

I'm Kinda Nervous.... About this... guys at the gym always stare at my dick... Looking for a cool young white guy into sucking one big. Or stilt on it. #4958

Young & Hung Men Wanted, Etc. 26yo versatile GWM, hairy chest/butt, biceps, seen all young and hung men to oral service, (uncut a+). You won't be disap pointed. Try me if you dare. S 5019

Mount my Man Pussy Big dick Btm seeks big dick, aggressive, verbal top. I'm 38, 5'10", 165, stache, hairy chest, tight end. I do leather, couples light bondage, safe. S 5020

Small or Slim Men 18-40 Wanted Swedish massage, which can be followed by optional erotic Taisit or Tantric massage. Rare not an issue. Daytime appts, Haight-Panhandle area. S 5021

Who You Gonna Call? Nutbusters! AM action. Look for on-going encounter with dude who enjoys kicking back and getting serviced. Great oral sessions for right guy. I'm Bk, masc, 40s. Any race 20-50yrs. S 5022

Any Asian Wrestler's? GWM, 51, 5'10", 170, HIV-, very hairy chest, strong & in-shape, seeks Asian play buddies for all seasons rough & hot. Struggle for top, your fantasy, whatever. Let's play. S 5023

Sweet Playful Sexbuddy Sought GWM, 36, 5'10", 165lbs, handsome, athletic, masculine guy w/ open heart & nimble mind seeks similar hot buddy to explore intimacy. We're in shape, real, creative, eclectic, secure, articulate. Let's connect! S 5024

Older Mature Men I'm a LM, 42, 6', 160lbs and I enjoy being alone and orally servicing older, mature men. I also like to kiss and hold. Facial hair, considerate, fun, generous, lots of interests, looking to date and have a good time. You? #5139

Let It All Hang Out Relax, view video's, stroke, and see where it goes from there. Day or evening, HIV- and NS, only "Aroma" encouraged. Enjoy! S 5026

Black Up, Brown Down Penetrating Black Topman, 45, seeks a mature, masculine, submissive, Hispanic bottom man. Prefer over 40 with olive skin, dark hair, husky build, moustache. S 5027

Young Travel Boy GWM 40, 5'10", 170, masculine, seeks good-looking GWM, 18-25, youthful, likes sex in different locations. LA, 30, Phoenix, West Coast. SF. I pay expenses, you provide the fun. S 5028

Generous Slave Wanted Very good looking Latin, 23, 6', 160#, smooth, great body, ISO financially secure slave to service me regularly. No pushy bottoms.... It's about ME!!!! S 5029

I Fuck Like a Str8 Boy --- But I'm not! 35yo, 5'10", 150#, trim, hot GWM/GLM, 20-35, who takes it like a man! Serious only. S 5030

Seeking Bottom Boy Toy Aggressive dominant top, 45yo, 5'10", 175, hairy chest, 8" cut, thick, wants hungry verbal bottom! Be 18-35 smooth A+ with two hot holes ready to take cock!!!! S 5031

Older Black Daddy Wanted To service my cock on a regular basis. Me: Horny Italian, 45s, HIV-, and 8x5". You: Be between 50-70, and HIV-. Removable teeth a plus. Your place. S 5032

Asian Boys I will drink your pee. BJ optional no reciprocation needed. S 5035

Well-Hung Butch Bottom GWM, 48, 5'8", 140#, HIV+, 8" cut, with tight hungry butt, seeks butch top for hot times and maybe relationship. #5143

Black Men With 8in Or More Who want a little fuck by who will give you what you want. Me 5'8", 150, hairy, stache, totally submissive for BM. #5128

Men of All Colors Wanted GWM, mid 40s, biefer, 151#, 6', slim-built, gym-toned, goatee, masculine, and top seeking guys, 21-50 and bottom for adventures and hot times. #5129

Verbal Abusers Order a smooth trim masculine guy (41yo) to submit to your oral demands. Must be straight acting with a trim waistline 18-40s. Hairy a+. #5130

Bottom Wanted E. Bay healthy gym going HIV-, sincere b/divorced man seeking for better healthy HIV-, for good time or more, couple is OK. #5131

Studs Who Like To..... Kick back, get great head & drop a load, should contact me ASAP. Castro location, 12-San, by hot Italian, 45, 6', 180, goatee & handsome. #5133

I Want Your Naked Dick GWM, 40, 6', 170, good shape, in town every 2wks. I need a nasty imaginative playmate. I give great head and I'd like your dick inside me for as long as you want. 3-way party-all night! I'll make you hot-nasty. C'mon and squirt! Oh yeah!! #5134

UB Hot 18-35 Full of Cum Cute, masculine, HIV-, WM, 38, 6'1", 190, will keep you at edge for hours, eat clean butt, squirt huge loads! Videos, massage, aroma, hot fun. #5135

Tight Bottoms Wanted 5'5-6'00, attractive, 40s, CM, ISO talented bottoms for frequent get together at your place. You are experienced and like to ride it. Not looking for relationship. Aroma, Black, A+. #5136

Seeking Asian or Latino Tops Good looking, healthy, fit, GWM, 35, seeks similar Asians or Latinos tops for the real thing. Please be responsible, serious & uncult. #5137

Ass Eater Here Gd/king bodybuilder with long probing tongue and big lips available for long rimming sessions with tops who appreciate a hungry pussyboy and want to verbally abuse him while he sucks your asshole. W/S, cum/spit/raunch/tiltup, also a turn-on. #5138

Have It His Way! Surrender control to this handsome hawaiian hunk who's lecherous, smooth muscular body love to pump your face/butt. Want to get tied up and used enthusiastically? He will make you cum helplessly! S 5033

One Single Stud For You Me: 32yo, good looking, professional, smooth, sexy, muscular body, intelligent, considerate, fun, generous, lots of interests, looking to date and have a good time. You? #5139

Brought to You by the Letter H! This happy, healthy, husky, hairy, humorous, definitely funny hunk, 5'11", 210, is looking for playmates, friendship and maybe more. #5140

Jackoff Artist, Need a SF Apt???? Love being watched pleasure. I'm a little bit of a jackoff. There's a nice little apt. for you across from mine. Great sightlines, but discrete. White, Asian, 20s-40s, check me out!! S 5034

Just Shut-Up And Ride! WM, 48, 6', 33", 18" arms, wants good-looking masculine men to pump me or get pumped. Also love to get massaged and jerked-off anytime. #5141

69 Sucking Shooting With handsome, negative, 30s, GWM. Tonight let's suck wildly and loudly, shooting cum together!! #5142

FETISHES

Weejuns and Jeans Seeking other attractive, masculine guys to share fantasies about loafer exchange & thrashing. Ever had sex in your jeans? Goateed, 40s, professional seeks your input now. #4748

Round Butts Needs my attention. Paddle and belt your dermophiles will flow. 50yo GWM loves to spank. San Safe experience. #4749

Masculine Bottom 30 GWM, 6'5", seeks dominate tops. Men of color A+. I like daddies, cigars, hair and taking orders. Kinky and wild scenes are welcome. Excellent deep throat. #4750

Daytime Asshole Eater Get Your Asshole Eaten By A Pro!!!! #4832

Little Guy-Big Cock? You fit description big surprises come in small packages, love showing it off, being serviced. WM 50, wants to worship your big dick. Any race, uncult A+. #4752

Insatiable Bear/Cub Pig Bottom 40, 5'10", 225#, B/r/hd, goatee, gelling, tight ass made for fucking. Strap, 5'8", 160lbs, 23, goodlooking, workout. 4753

Have A Foot Or Leg Injury? Am you in a cast or a brace and unable to walk without crutches or a wheelchair? Prefer wheelchair. Age unimportant. I'm 5'8", 160lbs, 23, goodlooking, workout. 4753

Master Sks Slaveboy for LTR 36yo GWM, 6', 200lbs, br/hd, dom. You be 18-23 very submissive slim to med build. Call and let's see if we match. #4754

Slave Training Masculine GWM seeks HIV- butch GWM under 38ys for serious slave training, including bondage, TT, CBT, flogging, W/S. Master is 6', 210, hairy, 50s, sane, responsible, dom top. #4825

Paddle Me GWM late 40s, needs his smooth white butt turned red, hard, paddle, strap, 5'8", 170, br/hd, clean shaven. #4826

Hole Punch Young kinky FFT, not into leather scene, seeking experienced but humble bottoms with deep wide holes for punching, stretching and exploring. Safe sex only. Facial hair, speed free A+. #4827

Hot Dick Boy/Slave Nice shaft mounted on lean hot chassis, quick construction, durable materials, award-winning design. Can't be young enough. Must desire bondage, pain, torture, potential long term ownership following standard break-in period. 48, 6', 180, in-shape, experienced. #4828

Let's Bare Our Soles! Let me admire your muscular body and lick from head to toe while I give you a sensual erotic rub. Body builders and big dick and low hangers A+. #4830

Bondage/Discipline Experienced player, safe, sane, consensual scenes, 41, 5'11", GWM, good build and looks, drug free. Usually top, but enjoy bottoming when I get the opportunity with the right man. #4834

Erotic Massage/Muscle Worship Life long attracted to men's muscular body and from head to toe while I give you a sensual erotic rub. Body builders and big dick and low hangers A+. #4830

Fountain Needs Servicing Morning hot piss, dirty asshole, crutch, pints, you must show you enjoy it with spunkiness. Sonoma Co., only your place, daytime, FL/relation. #4831

Be My Pumpy I'm looking for a submissive boy under 6' to leech and to be my houseboy. I'm a cute GWM in 20's. Also into videotaping K-9. #4833

Servicing My Ass Gwd Dad 55 5'2" HIV- need ass get serviced & ball work by experienced horny men. In exchange I'll suck your cock, real Good! #4834

Ass Licker If you young Hot and masculine, my face belongs in yer butt. I'm a 50yo, GWM, muscular and hairy. I love rimming guys. #4944

Tie Me To A Cross And whip me. Gym-toned, 35yo, 5'10", 165lbs, also into creative and demanding bondage. Be under 45. #4945

Big Guys Who Want To Suck Small Guys With a nice big dick are invited to sexual saton. Call for reservations. #4946

Penis Envy 2nd, small endowment. Sissy bottom seeks W.E. understanding older black male, open to LTR, kink, gang bangs. #4947

ISO Watersports Senior, Hot & Horny, 170#, 6', 6'1/2" uncult. Into mutual piss w/ any age couple weight. Bears A+. #4948

Pit Service If you men who know what they like, want, need, Give, receive or mutual. Any age. #4949

Weekday HIV+ JO Group Forming Looking for men 30-50, who love JO, tit-play, showing off, stroking, being naked, watching. I'm 35, tall attractive, natural body, no drug/gym bodies. Let's meet & jack it. #4950

Barefoot Man I'm 5'11", handsome, masculine, dark hair, goatee, size 11 feet. I'm looking for other men with big feet for mutual licking, smelling foot fantasy and fun. #4951

Flog Guys Wanted Skinhead PGF dude, booster, seeks for flogging freaks, bondage tops, mark me up black and blue. Scal, chelos, dudes in derby jackets and ski-masks. #4952

Jackstraps: Remember your 1st One? Looking to get together w/other men who collect jackstraps of all types & brands. #4953

Your Feet My Face Good looking, masculine guy wants to worship you and your feet! Kick back while I make you and your feet feel real good! All welcome, nice feet? #4954

Suck My Ass... Marathon as eater needed to service hot 35yo verbally abusive top. Let my ripe hole for hours! #4955

Brainy & Brawny Daddy Wanted Me 6', 170#, B/r/hd, Dad's boy ISO smart dominant, aggressive Daddy. Into leather B&D, fluit to ruff. S 5036

Do You Like To Rim Butt? Handsome hairycheested uncult top wants your hot tongue in my hole. I've got a great butt and want your face as my rim chair! S 5037

Bondage Top Experienced bondage top, 40, 5'8", 155, attractive, seeks submissive, obedient, masculine, in-shape bottom, 25-40, for erotic bondage and play. Sage, discreet. SF. East bay. S 5038

Young Fem Boy Sought By masculine GWM 39, for role reversal, between 20-25, white or Asian only. You be the master I will obey your order to suck and fuck. No SM, WS, S 5039

Do You Enjoy A Long Hot Drink? From a 8 inch uncut hose, hot, handsome, in-shape blond top to give you a mouth full. So if you a fun bottom leave a message and description. S 5040

White Meat Lover BM, 40s, seeks younger (21-35) white top stud. Cum cramp your mouth with your dick. Whitehead my face. Verbal A+. S 5041

Hot Fuck/Fist Party Pig Me 38 GWM 6'10", 165#, br/bl, beard, hairy chest, hung 9", great butt, versatile/mutual. You: Top or versatile with nasty attitude. Days or nights. Hung, hairy are a plus. S 5042

Little Guy Big Cock? You fit description big surprises come in small packages, love showing it off, being serviced. WM 50, wants to worship your big dick. Any race, uncult A+. S 5043

Navel Lover Looking for Same 28yo Latino/personal trainer looking for GWM 25-40. Must worship navel/love my cut dick, must be clean cut and discreet. Cute in-lies/outies call, we'll do more too! #5144

Husky Hairy Bears Masculine, hung, bear-chaser 46, 5'11", 185lbs of solid pig meat looking for furry, stocky men into sucking, fucking, rimming, heavy tit play and man smells. Cum and get it!! #5145

Black Latin on White You: Sexy, top with this kinky tight butt bottom, servicing me from front and back, uncult, nasty mind hotter, 20-45 and slender CK me out!! #5146

Good With Yer Fists? I Am! Hairy-muscled slender into NHB wrestling, gloves boxing, barekuckle fighting ISO tuft rugged hairy dude for winter-takes-all fights, mutual punching duels, leather/military scenes. Let's duke it out!! #5147

Slave Seeks Master 26yo, attractive WM seeks experienced mature master for long sessions of humiliation and slave train training. #5148

Like Gettin' Slapped Around? hung msc top (42) wants young (21-30) white guy to use, abuse and fuck. Get back to me ASAP, Boy. #5149

Naughty Boy Needs: Discipline, kink and collar, boy is 5'8", 150#, 44, boyish, smooth, attractive. Wants master, slim smooth (where it counts), inventive. Older or Asian OK. #5150

Strictly Masturbation Voyeur likes to watch you JO, also join in or lend a helping hand. Age, race, sexual pref, unimportant. Just like to JO. I'm GWM, 35, 5'10", 170, cute. #5151

Muscle Leather FF Toy Frat Top notch muscle, 6'2", 185, 40yo, leather guy interviewing other well muscled similar studs, 21-40, who's hot for leather, FF, toys, group action, with bull grade A masculine guys ready for nasty butt games. Please call. #5152

Feetseehersocks/dressshoes Attractive latino 32, 5'11", 190, Virgo, size 12 shoe, non smoker. Would like to meet whites, latins, or Asians into same fetish. Non smokers only under 38, no games. #5153

Toilet Boy 220#Bodybuilder clanks under his rim chair for feedings from demanding ranch tops who crave asshole and cock service. I like cum, piss, snail, ripe holes, and getting fucked. Fuck with my mind. #5154

Domination and Affection Gradual development integrating bright/dominant aspects, sensual/emotional/not sexual. You're athletic/fitt bottom, not leather/Soma/White, long term, 165#, workout body, eclectic interests, bondage, more. #5155

Feet! Erotic Intimate Foot Love Lifelong attraction to men's barefoot. Crave mutual barefoot kissing, licking, smelling, caressing, toe wrestling. Roles, Fantasies, E.B. sensual GWM w/ shoe rim, 5'9", trim, tan, hairy, HIV-, seeks buddy. #5156

Ready for Ultimate Fantasy? Master is 32yo, has good looks, smart, muscular, smooth body, new to scene but has truly insatiable appetite and imaginative/nasty mind (BD,SM,FF,WS,CBT,etc.) #5157

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HIV- GWC ISO Shavers for 3 Way Healthy, versatile, 46 & 41. Into shaving, rimming toys, fingers, bondage. No scat, blonde, raunch, pic/picvids poss. Redhead Hair skin A+. #5159

COUPLES

Sushi, Dancing and Indie Films. Slim, sexy, HIV- Asian and Latino couple ISO similar in people of color under 30. Not only for sex, other interests: burritos, books, art, community, piercings, tattoos, outdoors, music and Sundays. #4756

Couple To Service One I'm mature married & discreet, 150lbs HIV-, in very good shape, succulent cock, balls, erection, pints with aroma, your place SF/Sbstp a plus, fountain available. #4757

East Bay Hayward Couple Seeks 3rd US: Latino/White, good looking 30s, hairy top, smooth bottom. You: Black, Latino or Asian under 30, slim, well-hung, uncult A+. HIV-. You be middeamn. #4758

Two In One Horny guys needs hungry oral couple to pig out on my hairy spread front and back. I'm verbal, clean HIV-, Attitude and talent more important than age or looks. #4852

Tres Amigos? Latin/European couple, in-shape, mid-30s, seek to connect with other latins, mid-20s-30s, for dancing, movies, adventure, more! You: HIV-, speak spanish, fremont area. #4956

ISO G/M For Daytime Fun GBM & WSM, 50s, ISO gay male 45-65 with place for sexual activity. HIV- and open for great daytime fun. Will call or write to all. #5160

OTHER


Oaklander GBM Very Shy Seeking A exercise buddy to walk, hike and bike with to get me in shape. Love all races and ages. #4759

Exhibitionist And Voyeur Bi WM in Oakland, positive, healthy, discreet. ISO couples or singles, any gender or sexual orientation who enjoy watching and being watched. Do you have funky freaky neighbors? #4853

BAY AREA REPORTER PERSONALS

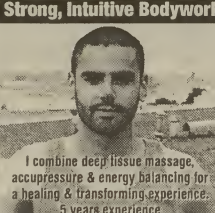
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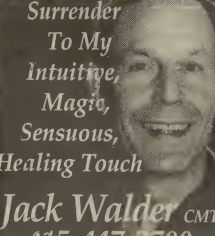
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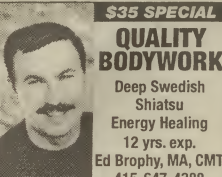
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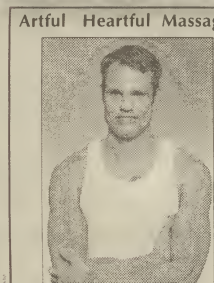
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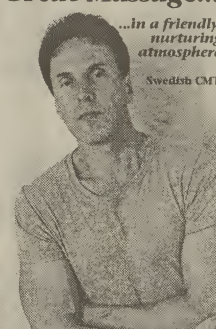
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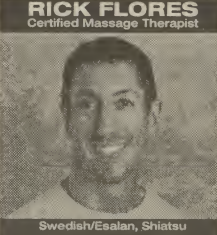
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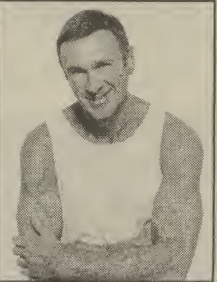
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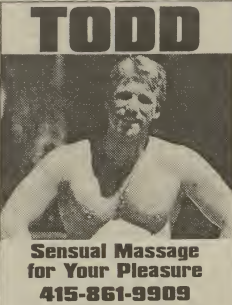
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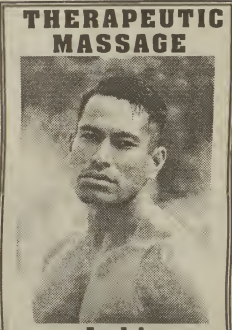


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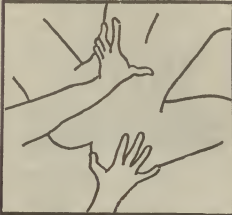
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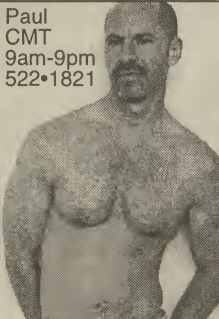


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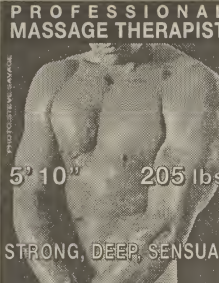


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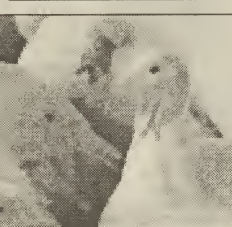
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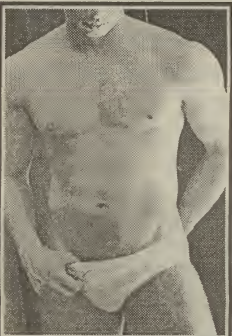
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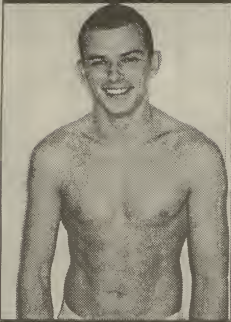
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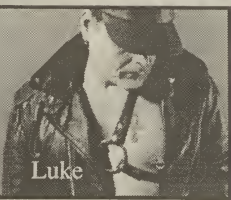
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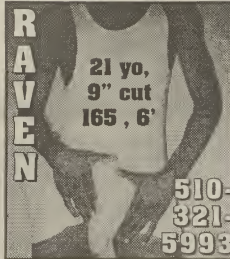
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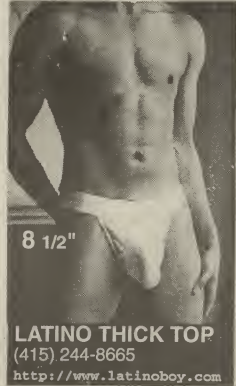
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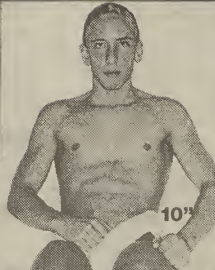
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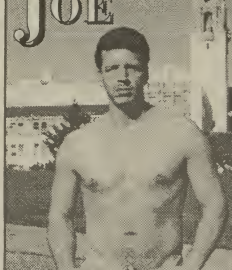
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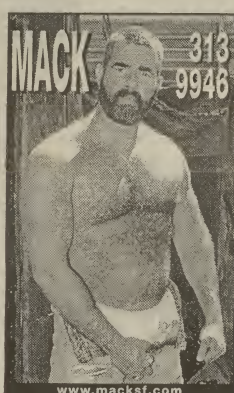
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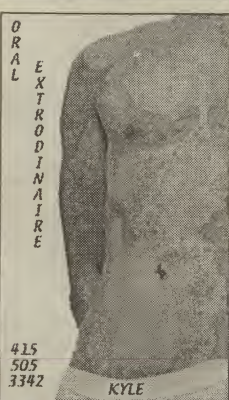
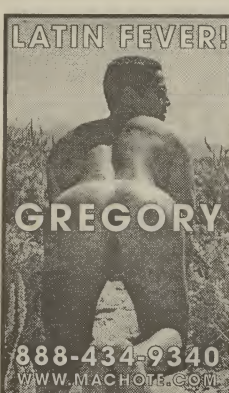
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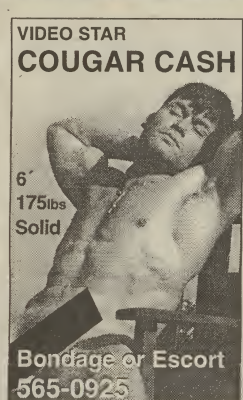


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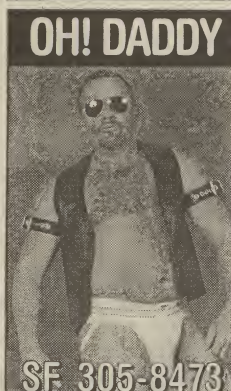
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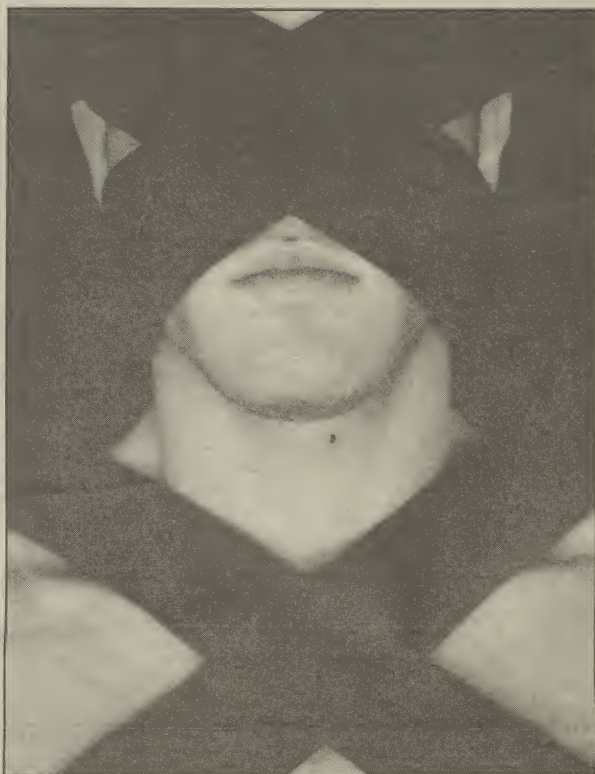
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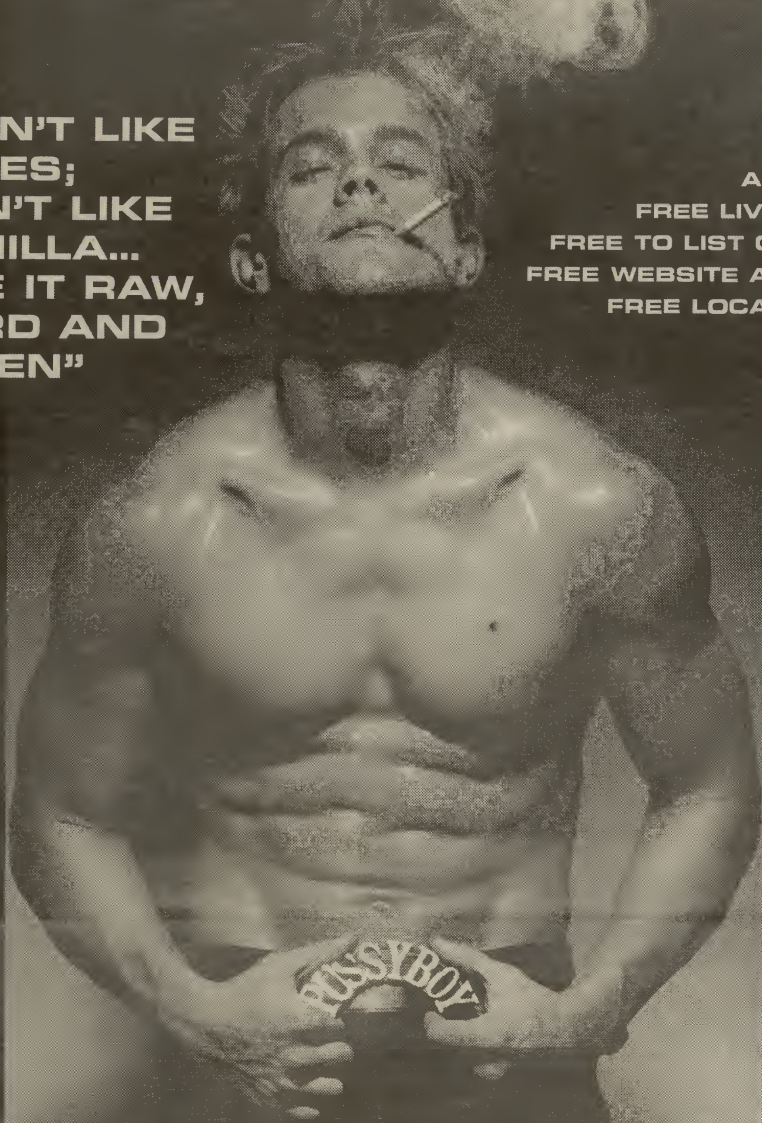
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